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Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 1074.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1886.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.
STAMPED..... 6d.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, EDITH GROVE WEST BROMPTON. OPENING SERVICES.

On TUESDAY, June 12th, the Rev. S. MARTIN, of Westminster, will preach in the Morning, and the Rev. J. STOUTON, of Kensington, in the Evening.

Service to commence in the Morning at Half-past Eleven o'clock, and in the Evening at Seven.

A cold collation will be provided at Two o'clock, to be followed by addresses from Ministers and Friends.

Tea at Five o'clock in a Marquee on the Adjoining ground.

Tickets for the Collation, 2s.; for the Tea, 1s.

On SUNDAY, June 17th, the Rev. G. MARTIN, of New Cross, will Preach Morning and Evening, and the Rev. W. M. STATHAM, of Trevor Chapel, Brompton, in the Afternoon.

Service to commence in the Morning at Eleven o'clock, in the Afternoon at Three, and in the Evening at Half-past Six.

On TUESDAY, June 19th, the Rev. J. C. Harrison, of Park Chapel, Camden Town, will preach in the Evening.

Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

A Collection after each Service in aid of the Building Fund.

SOUTHEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A BAZAAR in aid of the BUILDING FUND will be held D.V. on TUESDAY, July 10th, and two following days.

Contributions from friends at a distance will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Rev. A. S. Richardson, Southend, Essex.

HENDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES, TUESDAY, June 12, 1886.

The Rev. J. C. HARRISON will preach in the Afternoon, at Three o'clock; the Rev. HENRY ALLON in the Evening, at Half-past Six o'clock.

Tea will be provided at Five o'clock.

An Omnibus will start from Chalk Farm (by the Adelaide Tavern) at Two p.m. and Half-past Five p.m., returning immediately after the Afternoon and Evening Services.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY of GREVILLE-PLACE CHURCH, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, on SUNDAY next, June 10th.

Rev. J. W. BOULDING at Eleven.

Rev. SELLA MARTIN at Half-past Six.

A PUBLIC MEETING on JUNE 20th. Rev. J. C. GAL-LAWAY, A.M., in the Chair.

FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH, ST MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. G. G. DAUGARS, Pastor.

The TESTIMONIAL now being raised as a token of esteem, and appreciation of the Rev. G. G. Daugars' great and valuable exertions in defending the interests of his Church and people, and maintaining the claims of the descendants of the Huguenots to a participation in the benefits, spiritual and temporal, bequeathed by their forefathers, will be PRESENTED on MONDAY EVENING, June 18th, 1886, at a Public Meeting to be held in the TOWN HALL, BETHNAL-GREEN.

The Rev. SEPTIMUS HANSARD, M.A., Rector of Bethnal-green, will make the Presentation, and will be supported by many Clergymen and Gentlemen of influence.

Any Friends desirous of contributing will kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Theodore Gillet, No. 35, Libra-road, North Bow, E.

BRITISH and FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

NEW HOUSE.

His Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES will LAY the FOUNDATION-STONE of the Society's NEW HOUSE, on MONDAY, June 11, at Twelve o'clock.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales will also honour the ceremony with her presence.

The Committee, being very desirous to raise as large a portion as possible of the required Building Fund before that day, earnestly request the friends of the Society to collect and send in contributions as soon as they possibly can.

Gentlemen collecting £100 each are invited to take the office of Steward at the ceremony; and each lady who shall collect £10 10s. may thereby secure a reserved seat on application to the Secretaries on or before Thursday, June 7.

Signed, CHARLES JACKSON, } Secretaries.
S. B. BERGNE, }

No. 10, Earl-street, Blackfriars, E.C.

ASYLUM for FATHERLESS CHILDREN, REEDHAM, near CROYDON.

Under the Patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty THE QUEEN.

The GENERAL MEETING and MIDSUMMER ELECTION of this Charity will be held on MONDAY, the 18th June, 1886, at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET.

The Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock; the Poll open at Twelve and close at Two. At this Election Twenty Children (Twelve Boys and Eight Girls) will be admitted; and the Board feel confident that the supporters of the Charity will aid them in their endeavours to admit a yet larger number to its benefits.

T. W. AVELING, Hon. Sec.

No. 10, Poultry, May 24, 1886.

THE FREEDMEN of AMERICA.—The Rev. SELLA MARTIN, delegate from the American Missionary Association (Freedmen's Aid Society), can be communicated with at 377, Essex-road, Islington, N.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, MAITLAND-PARK, HAVERSTOCK-HILL, N.W.

The 108th ANNUAL EXAMINATION of the CHILDREN will take place at the Institution, on THURSDAY, June 14th, 1886.

In the Morning, at Eleven o'clock, EDWARD BAINES, Esq., M.P., will preside. In the Evening, at Six o'clock, CHARLES EDWARD MUDIE, Esq., will preside.

Admission by Tickets only.

After the Examination, at Two o'clock, a Cold Collation will be provided. Tickets, Five Shillings.

Tea at Five o'clock. Tickets, One Shilling.

As the space is limited, and to prevent disappointment, early application for Tickets is particularly requested, which may be obtained of any member of the Committee, of Messrs. Warren Hall and Co., 88, Camden-road, N.W., of the Matron at the School, and at the Offices of the Society, 56, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

* * No Tickets can be obtained after the 13th June.

HOSPITAL for DISEASES of the SKIN, BLACKFRIARS.

Out Patients are seen on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at Three o'clock, and on Tuesdays and Fridays at Two o'clock. New Patients must apply for Tickets at least an hour before the above times. Medicines may be procured any Morning before Ten o'clock. Pecuniary assistance is most urgently needed. Contributions of Old Rags for Bandages will be most thankfully received.

ALFRED S. RICHARDS, Secretary.

THE GUARDIAN of a well-educated YOUTH, aged 17, son of a deceased Indian Missionary, is anxious to obtain a SITUATION for him in a BANK, for which he has a decided preference; he is quick at accounts, and writes a good hand.

Refer to R. v. E. Lewis, 48, North-parade, Aberystwith, Wales.

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A SOUND COMMERCIAL EDUCATION is obtained at CRANFORD HALL SCHOOL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

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May 31, 1886.

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Eccliaastical Affairs.

INCORRIGIBLY SELFISH.

THERE are few characteristics of our State Church more disheartening to those who dissent from its communion, none which impress upon them more repeatedly or more deeply the hopelessness of effecting a change in its spirit, so long as its political ties remain what they are, than the ingrained and seemingly ineradicable ecclesiastical selfishness which it commonly exhibits. Dissenters have no sooner got rid, after the toilsome efforts of many years, or believe they have a fair prospect of getting rid, of one law which operates upon them with injustice, than forthwith another is sure to spring up in its place. The good sense and feeling of the nation have long since condemned the indiscriminate exaction of Church-rates, and the Government, in obedience to the frequently expressed will of the House of Commons, has at length introduced a Bill to extinguish the compulsory character of the impost. What is likely to be its fate is, at present, as uncertain as the fate of the Administration which has made itself responsible for the measure. Before, however, it has passed its second reading in the Commons, the Lords, on the motion of Lord Redesdale, have, as we intimated in our "Eccliaastical Notes" last week, seen fit to make ready for us a legislative proposal of kindred injustice, the defeat of which will probably tax our energies anew.

The churchyard monopoly, even as it stands, is a disgrace to the country. The land which is set apart for the burial of the dead in each parish is the rightful inheritance, for that purpose, of the parishioners in common. One might have imagined that the theological or ecclesiastical differences which divide the living might at least be laid aside over the open grave, and that in committing to the earth from which they sprung the bodies of departed friends, there can be no good reason which should prevent survivors from conducting the funeral rites with such religious services as they may deem best calculated to soothe and sanctify the bereavement they have sustained. Wherever sanitary considerations have required a cemetery apart from the Church edifice, a clumsy provision has been made to obviate the grievance inflicted by clerical exclusiveness, and the Legislature requires an arrangement which, while it affords relief, and so far illustrates its liberality of intention, reflects infinite discredit on it for the mode in which that relief is provided. The ground which is devoted, under the Cemeteries Act, to the interment of the dead, is divided into consecrated and unconsecrated portions, and a mortuary chapel is erected upon each. Even this concession was not obtained without repeated and severe struggles, and the bitter sectarianism of the Church Establishment which made it necessary to resort to such an expedient will be regarded with surprise and scorn by future generations. Still, it is an arrangement which admits of a fair use being made of what is common property by all the parishioners who contributed to its purchase and maintenance. No practical inconvenience has resulted from the division of

the burial-ground—no disorder has arisen from the ministration, in the unconsecrated portion, of religious observances according to the conscience or taste of surviving relatives—no ground of complaint has been discovered, except perhaps in the diminution of mortuary fees to the parochial clergymen whose graveyards have been closed. The working of the new system is satisfactory, and, wherever it applies, no one would probably think of disturbing it.

But there are numerous parishes in which it does not apply—parishes in which the inhabitants are too few, and their dwelling places too sparsely scattered, to render it necessary for sanitary purposes to have a cemetery separate from the parish church. From all such graveyards, funeral rites other than those of the State Church are jealously excluded, and, in the case of the unbaptized dead, any religious service whatever may be refused by the clerical incumbent. It is not so in Ireland—it is not so in Scotland—but in England and Wales ecclesiastical monopoly has managed thus far to hold its own. Were we members of the Act-of-Parliament Church, we should blush that in this matter the clergy of our communion could be so tenacious of their hateful privilege, and, as Englishmen, we are ashamed that our country is so far behind most others in decent liberality of religious feeling. We hoped, it is true, that the clerical churlishness which found its gratification in the parish churchyard was giving way, and that gentlefolk were becoming ashamed of a meanness of spirit to the depths of which the working classes about them never sunk—that, namely, which shows itself in using the resources of its rival as much as possible, and in advertising by its ecclesiastical laws and customs the monition so redolent of shop, "No connection with the House over the way." We were mistaken. If Lord Redesdale may be held to speak the wishes of Churchmen in what he has proposed to his Peers, then it would seem as though the ecclesiastical greed gendered in its members by the system is incorrigible.

The noble lord's project of law strikes one at first sight as the dictate of economy and common sense. "Consecration" is a priestly device, at least in its application to places of sepulture, and, we need not say, is a device which they who have it, have to pay for. It used to be thought a religious act giving special sanctity to that which was theretofore secular—but if so, it is an act for the right doing of which the Church of England has provided no service. It was once supposed to guarantee at least the perpetual discharge of the building or the land which had the benefit of it from other than the sacred purposes for which they are set apart—but modern facts have cast a suspicion over this theory. The legal act of consecration is nothing more than the signing of the deed which conveys the property to the Church of England—and the practical meaning of it is this, "None but Anglican clergy can legally officiate here." Now what Lord Redesdale wishes to be done is this—that it should be enacted by Parliament that every addition hereafter made to the area of churchyards in parishes where there is no cemetery, shall be regarded by law as deriving consecration from the land to which it is adjoined. The additional graveyard space may come into possession of the parishioners by bequest, by donation, by purchase, by parochial taxation—but by whatever means soever it may come the noble lord, the Chairman of Committees, desires to settle it beforehand by a sharp, incisive, statutory decision, that only Churchmen shall have the full benefit of it, that only clergymen of the Establishment shall be authorised to perform Divine service on it, and that although Dissenters may, and most likely will, share in the payment for increased accommodation, they shall not share in the main object for which that payment is made.

We are in the dark as to the real motives of the noble lord. We know him to be a keen Churchman, and yet we are unwilling to believe that he would knowingly lend himself to attempt to filch even from Dissenters a triumph in disguise. We will suppose that what he had in his thoughts when he took the conduct of the measure, was the saving of parish money, and not the perpetuation of clerical

exclusiveness—but, even in that case, we must hold him guilty of a want of consideration, which he would exhibit in no other direction, and which virtually amounts to gross injustice. But whatever the noble lord's motives in proposing it, the Bill must not be allowed to pass—at any rate, in its present shape. Parish churchyards ought to be placed in no worse a position in regard to the rights of Dissenting parishioners, than public cemeteries—we would strive to place them in a better. We should deeply regret to see the distinction between consecrated and unconsecrated portions introduced into them. We look upon it as both needless and offensive. We would rather seize the proffered occasion to contest the whole principle of unjust exclusiveness involved in what is called "consecration," as applied to public burial-grounds, and, throwing the maintenance of the churchyard upon the poor-rate, to which Nonconformists would entertain no objection, we would insist upon giving equal rights to all parishioners, quite irrespectively of their religious faith. We can discover no reason why Episcopalians should have exclusive privileges in the interment of their dead—and, as the whole question is reopened by Lord Redesdale's Bill, we hope it will be fought out on the basis of common sense, equity, and Christian feeling. We must try, if possible, to purge our country of the disgrace which attaches to her burial laws in small parishes.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

It is seldom that we refer to purely theological questions in these columns, and, when we do, it is only to chronicle information. It is, perhaps, with less frequency that we refer to the *Record* newspaper, but we now propose to refer to both these subjects. On Monday last the *Record* gave insertion to an article the object of which is to prove, by reiterated assertion, two or three points with respect to the theology of Nonconformists. We make no complaint of this article. The last thing for which we should wish in this world is to find ourselves in accord with the morality and theology of the *Record*. But that journal is, we believe, extensively read and approved by the Evangelical section of the Established Church, and it is of some interest to know how the opinions of Nonconformists in general are reported to that section. *Apropos*, therefore, of Lord Shaftesbury's recent addresses at the Church Pastoral Aid Society and at the London Missionary Society, which have, it appears, excited some unfavourable criticism, the *Record* takes occasion to express its opinions on the state of "orthodoxy" amongst Dissenters. We are informed, first of all, that it is capable of turning to several of the most popular organs of Dissent for evidence as to the progress of scepticism and the growing impatience of all dogmatic theology, "that is, of all fixed belief in the doctrines of Christianity." Lord Shaftesbury's celebrated characterisation of "Ecce Homo" is next defended, and in this fashion:—

Lord Shaftesbury's denunciation of "Ecce Homo" was made at the anniversary of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, in that admirable speech with which he closed its proceedings. He was speaking of the various forms into which Satan transforms himself, and even as "an angel of light" beguiles unstable souls. He pointed to the Satanic subtlety with which that bad book degrades the Son of God to the level of a man, albeit He may be patronised as a model man; and which, after the manner of Pilate, or Pilate's soldiers, clothes Him in a purple robe, puts a reed into his hand, and with cruel mockery hails Him as King of the Jews. Such a book is far more dangerous than one filled with open blasphemy; and the danger is more appalling, seeing that there are those who are beguiled by its superficial pretensions to intellectual power and rhetorical blandishments. Lord Shaftesbury did well to pronounce his emphatic warning against "Ecce Homo"; and, believing that his language expressed the substantial truth, we are not careful to inquire whether or not the exact words were weighed with all the precision which might have been exacted if calmly written down in the closet, instead of being uttered under the impulse of that sympathy which actuated both the speaker and his audience.

Those who have read "Ecce Homo" are the best

Judges of this paragraph; and there are many who have read both that book, and even the criticism in *Fraser's Magazine* upon it, who believe that the writer has not drawn either upon his evil inclinations or upon his imagination for his facts. This attack is followed up by a coarse diatribe against our contemporary the *Patriot*, which, as most of our readers are aware, is the organ of the Congregational denomination. The *Patriot* attacked Lord Shaftesbury's mission speech on the ground that it apparently condemned all secondary efforts for the improvement of mankind. If that speech was not intended to convey such a meaning, it was Lord Shaftesbury's fault; for, looking at both the speech and the criticism, it appears to us that the latter neither misrepresents nor bears false witness. It is enough, however, that Lord Shaftesbury should be attacked, and hence we have the declaration that "the mass of pious Nonconformists are not represented by the weekly organ of the Congregational Union," followed by another diatribe against those "perverters of the Gospel" who rejoice in, amongst others, "Dean Stanley, Robertson, Kingsley, Beecher, Baldwin Brown, and Pressensé." We report all this without commenting upon it, because we half doubt whether it is worth reporting.

The *Guardian* has an article approving of the Colonial Bishops Bill, "so far as it goes." The reservation affects, principally, revenues and endowments, questions which will, no doubt, be made clear in the progress of this measure. There is a paragraph, however, in the article of our contemporary which puzzles us. It runs as follows:—

The notion of a people divided into adherents of a Parliamentary Church and members of various independent religious communities never entered into the head of a single person in Church or State who had any hand in the Reformation settlement. It was the growth of circumstances in a later age, and gradually accommodated itself to the requirements which a policy of toleration from time to time could not but make. As complications arose, first on the side of the Papacy, then on that of Puritanical Nonconformity, as demands were made in the interest of religious toleration, or (later still) of religious equality, statutes have been passed by which the Church in England has been protected or controlled. To say that the Parliament has created a religion, or that it has ever claimed to hold the place of an ecclesiastical governing body, is to set history at defiance, and to hold up faith and doctrine to the common scorn.

We direct attention to the last sentence. Is our contemporary actually ignorant of the fact that legislation for the Church has always been effected by the Crown and Parliament, and by the Crown and Parliament alone? There is a significant passage in Wentworth which ought to have occurred to its remembrance. "I was," says Wentworth, "sent for last Parliament by the Archbishop (Parker) for the Articles of Religion that then passed the House. He asked me why we did not put out of the book certain articles? 'Surely, Sir,' said I, 'because we were so occupied on other matters that we had no time to examine them how they agreed with the Word of God.' 'What,' said he, 'surely you mistake the matter; you will refer yourselves herein wholly to us?' 'No! by the faith I bear to God,' said I, 'we will pass nothing before we understand what it is, for that were but to make you Popes. Make you Popes who list,' said I, 'for we will make you none.' And so the Articles of Religion were passed. Yet Parliament has never 'claimed to hold the place of an ecclesiastical governing body,' and to say that it has, is to 'set history at defiance.' We have referred to the history of three hundred years ago; but what of the history of the last thirty years? Who, in that period, has governed the Church but Parliament? Who has reduced its number of bishops in one country and added to them in another; altered its laws of tithe, modified pluralities, constituted ecclesiastical commissions, set cathedral foundations in order, regulated the salaries of curates, and done all that a political Church needs to be done, but Parliament? Yet, says the *Guardian*, to say that Parliament has ever claimed to hold the place of an ecclesiastical governing body is to set history at defiance, and to hold up faith and doctrine to common scorn. Well, the latter is true. The faith and doctrine of the Established Church are held up to "common scorn" by the fact. But it is a fact notwithstanding. The amusing circumstance is that these remarks occur in an article on the Colonial Bishops Bill, which has to be settled by Parliament!

Has the reader noticed a sentence in Mr. Disraeli's speech on Monday night? It runs as follows:—

There are very many small boroughs in the rural districts of very independent character. There are some in which the Dissenting interest predominates, and I need not say that, next to the landed interest, the Dissenting interest has the greatest influence in small boroughs. That is one of the results of my analysis.

This statement was received with an incredulous jeer—by whom we know not,—but Mr. Disraeli is right. He has been astute enough to detect a fact known perfectly well to certain organisations in London, but hitherto undiscovered by the old Whigs, who, by-the-bye, never discover anything. What surprises us, however, is that Mr. Disraeli, after finding this out, should wish to save the small boroughs. Or has he confidence in the landlord "screw"?

We referred, last week, to the Rev. Dr. Brock. We have since been informed, and to our great gratification, that the minister of Bloomsbury Chapel eschews the title which has, against his consent, been conferred upon him. The degree which Mr. Brock was offered was one which could have been accepted consistently with the retention of a certain amount of self-respect. It came, we are informed, from Harvard University—the Cambridge of the United States. But American degrees, of any kind, have been distributed with such utter want of discrimination, the wearers of them exciting, as a rule, only ridicule by the unfitness of their scholastic marks with their actual qualifications, that they are now, and have been for twenty years past, nothing but notes of mediocrity. No man of any high attainments, either in theology or in literature, will now accept an American degree. We are, therefore, glad to know that Mr. Brock desires that people will not address him by a title which he has declined to wear.

THE SCOTCH GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

At the meeting of the General Assembly of the Established Church, on Thursday, the principal subject of discussion was the overtures with reference to innovations. Dr. Pirie made a motion to the effect that the Declaratory Act of last year should be recalled, and that the Presbyteries be instructed to take cognisance of innovations in the congregations within their bounds, and to adjudicate thereon. Dr. Lee moved as an amendment that the Declaratory Act of 1865 be rescinded. After a lengthened discussion, which was continued in the evening sederunt, Dr. Pirie's motion was carried by a majority of 207 to 94—majority, 113. The result was received with loud cheering, and also with hissing and disapprobation.

There were several overtures on the table praying the Assembly to declare against the use of instrumental music in public worship; but, in respect of the decision upon the general question, consideration of these overtures was suspended.

Various other matters of general interest engaged the attention of the Assembly, who received a petition from about 600 patrons, elders, and members of the Church of Scotland, praying the Church to maintain inviolate the Westminster Confession as the doctrinal standard of the Church, and for preventing any change being made in the same without competent authority. The petition, which had obvious reference to the views lately promulgated with regard to the Westminster Confession by the Very Rev. Principal Tulloch, of St. Andrew's University, was signed by the Duchess of Sutherland, in her own right as Countess of Cromartie, and patroness of various parishes in the Church, by the Duke of Sutherland, the Earls of Selkirk, Erroll, and Seafield, Lord Polwarth, &c. In connection with the same subject the House took up an overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, praying the Assembly to enjoin the judicatories of the Church to see that persons who had signed the Confession of Faith should not depart therefrom, but should loyally and consistently adhere thereto, along with similar overtures from other Synods and Presbyteries. After a lengthened debate, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. Phin, to grant the injunction craved.

The Assembly received a report of some importance pointing out the great number of small livings within the Church and the diminished amount of many of them through the reduction in recent years of the prices of grain which are the standard of value of stipend in most of the parishes. It was intimated that an association of laymen had been formed to give special attention to this matter, and to take all competent measures for securing augmentation of the small livings. The bill before Parliament for the feuing of glebes was approved by the Assembly as one means to that end.

An overture calling on the Assembly to apply to Parliament to repeal the law of patronage was submitted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and was supported on the ground that nearly all the secessions from the pale of the Church of Scotland had been caused by the right of patronage being vested in the landed aristocracy instead of the people. It was now thought that by a repeal of this law the Free Church and other Presbyterian denominations might again become reconciled to the National Church. The overture was opposed by the Earl of Selkirk, who expressed his belief that Lord Aberdeen's Act of 1843 regulating patronage was the furthest length that Parliament would emerge in the direction of popular freedom, and said that the Church would only get relief from patronage by the surrender of her endowments. Dr. Macleod, of Morven, moved that the overture be dismissed. Dr. Pirie moved that a committee be appointed to consider the subject, and

report to next Assembly. Dr. Pirie's motion was carried by 50 to 45.

For all the missionary schemes of the Church there was this year an increased collection reported. Six new parishes had been endowed during the year by voluntary contributions, and the funds received by the Endowment Committee amounted to 26,146*l.* It was stated that for Home Missions and church building the revenue of the Church last year derived from voluntary sources amounted to between 90,000*l.* and 100,000*l.* The education scheme and the foreign and colonial missions all showed this year a satisfactory increase of funds.

THE FREE CHURCH.

In the Free Church Assembly a very gratifying report on finances was given in. It was stated that the total sum raised during the year was 383,572*l.*, being an increase of 25,374*l.* as compared with last year. Of that sum there had been raised for the General Sustentation Fund 138,228*l.*, but as the number of charges upon the fund was larger this year than last, the equal dividend would be reduced from 144*l.* to 143*l.*

The principal subject before the Free Assembly was the report of the committee on union with the United Presbyterian and other churches. It explained at length the various conferences of the committee during the year, and the measures of agreement to which, on the various heads, the negotiating parties had arrived.

Dr. R. BUCHANAN, Glasgow, moved that the report of the committee be sent down to Presbyteries for their information, and that their suggestions be invited. Adverting to the different modes of ministerial provision in the United Presbyterian and Free Churches, he said it was hoped a scheme would be devised for uniting the best points of both systems. Both these systems had undeniably achieved great results. Under the local and congregational system, the United Presbyterian Church had lived and flourished for more than a century, and had grown from half-a-dozen to nearly 600 congregations; while under the collective and united system this Church had nearly doubled its ministry in little more than twenty years—had risen from 472 to 900 congregations—and had kept its ground in almost every parish from the Solway to the Shetland Isles. Adverting to the lure held out to the Free Church by the Established Presbytery of Edinburgh for a reunion with a National Church, by the proposal to abolish the law of patronage, the rev. Doctor said it was truly an *annus mirabilis* when the representatives of the old intrusionists were prepared to commit themselves to the principle of popular election, allowing the cattle (to use one of their old illustrations) to choose their own herd. He should rejoice to see the Established Church setting itself in right earnest to grapple with the serious errors and innovations which were so evidently and so rapidly spreading within its pale, and showing something like an honest determination to repress and put them down. He should rejoice to see the Established Church adopting their anti-patronage and spiritual independence principles, and manfully confessing that, when they refused and resisted these principles, and did so at the expense of forcing on the disruption, they were committing a flagrant wrong. But at present he saw no symptom of either of these things. He had no expectation of ever seeing an Established Church which, as a Free Churchman, he could honestly and consistently join.

Dr. BEGG said they had now nothing more to do with the Establishment than to protest against its corruption and impenitence for past sins. He did not see any Establishment on the face of the earth that deserved support, and he had no expectation that till they had all these institutions shivered into pieces would they see anything like the reconstruction of the whole Presbyterian Church of which their friends spoke.

Dr. CANDLISH, speaking on the same point, said—

What is the meaning of the talk just now about the prospects of the Established Church of Scotland becoming such a Church as we might join with? All honour, I say, to the faithful men in the Established Church who are maintaining sound doctrine and resisting latitudinarianism in that body. All honour to the men who voted against Dr. Lee. I back them up to the utmost; and if the day shall ever come—and I do not think it will be long till the more clear-sighted among them do see the impossibility of maintaining their views as to the doctrine, discipline, and government of the Church—and, when seeing that, are ready to renounce the privileges of the Establishment—my arms, if I am spared, will be open to welcome them most gladly. While I rejoice in every effort made within the Establishment to stem that tide of latitudinarianism and ritualism in worship that is flowing over that Church like a flood, can anyone shut his eyes to the fact that that flood is in existence, and flowing freely? Can anyone shut his eyes to the fact that at this very moment, in spite of occasional victories, the prevailing tendency of a large part of that Church is to latitudinarianism and ritualism, and perhaps even to something worse? Can we shut our eyes to these things? Can we shut our eyes to the fact that discipline is almost a nonentity in the Established Church? I do not say discipline for offence; but of discipline as regards doctrine and worship there is none in the Church of Scotland. And is it when the Established Church is in such a position, and is manifesting such tendencies, that we, promoting the cause of union with three sound Presbyterian bodies, are to be arrested and told to pause and consider the question, not in the light of present duty or present circumstances, but in the light of possible contingencies likely to happen at the Greek Kalends!

Mr. BRODIE, minister at Monimail, moved that the Committee on Union be discharged, adverting to the voluntary principles held by the United Presbyterian

Church as being incompatible with those they held. Dr. Forbes seconded the motion; but the majority of those who are hesitating about the union did not support the proposal to stop it in this way, and the motion of Dr. Buchanan was carried by 439 to 7.

PURE LITERATURE SOCIETY AND OPEN-AIR MISSION.

On Monday evening a meeting was held in the Lower Room, Exeter Hall, "to consider the best means of promoting the circulation of Pure Literature—periodicals, tracts, and other publications; especially by the efforts of Scripture-readers, city missionaries, Sunday-school teachers, and open-air preachers." It was convened by the Open-Air Mission, and was designed chiefly to promote the work of the Pure Literature Society. About 300 were in attendance, nearly all of whom are actively engaged in Christian work among the masses of London and the suburbs. Mr. Thomas Chambers, M.P., was unable to take the chair, in consequence of important Parliamentary duties. The presidency of the meeting was therefore undertaken by Mr. John Macgregor, the well-known hon. secretary of both the above-named societies. After prayer had been offered by the Rev. E. Petavel, pastor of the Swiss Church, Bloomsbury, the subject was opened by the Rev. Robert Maguire, incumbent of Clerkenwell, who described the work of the Clerkenwell branch of the Pure Literature Society, which last year sold upwards of 19,000 periodicals. He was followed by Mr. G. Joblin, who spoke of the work in connection with Sunday-schools. Mr. G. Kirkham, secretary of the Open-Air Mission, showed how Scripture-readers, city missionaries, &c., could help. Mr. T. B. Smithies concluded a practical speech by offering 10,000 copies of the *British Workman* to the Society for canvassing purposes. The Rev. Robert J. Parvin, of the United States Christian Commission, designated the work of that noble band of 5,000 volunteers as both an Open-Air Mission and a Pure Literature Society. Mr. B. Turner, secretary of the Pure Literature Society, concluded the meeting by throwing out some practical suggestions by which each person might help on the work. A large number of books, periodicals, pictures, maps, diagrams, &c., were displayed in the hall, and a parcel of periodicals, sent by various publishers, was given to each person on leaving, to be used as specimens in canvassing, so as to increase the circulation of good healthy literature.

COLONIAL BISHOPRICS.

A Blue-book has been published containing a long correspondence with the Colonial Office on the subject of the colonial bishoprics. The correspondence includes the petition of the New Zealand bishops, which was published some time ago, as to the effect on their position of the Privy Council decision; the petition of Miss Burdett Coutts on the same subject, and the accompanying letter of the Bishop of London, also already published; besides other documents. The closing letter of the correspondence is from Mr. Cardwell to the Bishop of London, on the subject of Miss Coutts's petition:—

Downing-street, May 25.

My Lord,—I have received from Secretary Sir G. Grey your lordship's letter of the 3rd inst. I have also received and laid before the Queen the petition enclosed in that letter, which has been addressed to her Majesty by Miss Burdett Coutts, the munificent founder of more than one of the existing bishoprics in her Majesty's colonial possessions, respecting the intricate questions which have arisen out of the recent judgments of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council in the case of *Long v. the Bishop of Capetown*, and in the case of the Bishop of Natal.

The effect of those judgments on the status of colonial bishops and the position of the Colonial Church has engaged the anxious consideration of her Majesty's Government. They are fully sensible of the advantage which the colonial episcopate derives, and as they hope will long continue to derive, from its connection with the Established Church of this country, and would readily adopt any legitimate means of strengthening that connection. But it would, in their opinion, be inconsistent with the settled principles of colonial policy to establish in the colonies by Imperial legislation a prerogative in respect to ecclesiastical matters which the highest Court of Appeal has declared to have no existence in law. They have, however, caused a bill to be framed, and to be introduced into Parliament, which, without interfering in matters which fall within the sphere of local legislation, will, as they hope, have the effect of placing the Church of England at greater liberty to extend and perpetuate its ministrations throughout the colonial empire.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London.

THE CHURCH-RATE AGITATION AT KIRKHAM.—The Church-rate agitation question at Kirkham, in the Fylde of Lancashire, is still kept up, and on Wednesday more sales of articles seized from the houses of parties who had refused to pay the rate took place. The parties whose goods were sold are Mr. Cuthbert Catterall, Wesham; Mr. Robert Catterall, Kirkham; and Mr. Roger Charnock, Kirkham. The sum which Mr. Cuthbert Catterall refused to pay was 9s. 11d., and from his house one eight-day clock, a gun, a cupboard, two mahogany tables, a sofa, a night chair, and a parlour carpet, were taken. The last-named article alone, when new, cost 4*l*. From Mr. Robert Catterall's house the following articles were taken for a rate amounting to only 1*s*. 10*d*.:—A clock, a sofa, a writing-desk, two tables, fourteen stools, a cart saddle, and 120 yards of Scotch linen. From Mr. Charnock's house a looking-glass, a chest

of drawers, two mahogany tables, a mahogany sofa, and a music stool were "seized" to pay a rate of 7*d*. The articles were seized last week, and since then the utmost excitement has prevailed in Kirkham. On a piece of land nearly opposite the railway station several placards, &c., were fixed up relative to the injustice of the seizures and the poverty of the Church, and they could be easily read by passengers in the carriages as they halted at Kirkham. In the centre of the placards an effigy, called the "Wesham churchwarden," was fixed up. The figure represented a sort of dilapidated clerical individual, with hat in hand, and begging for aid on behalf of the Established Church. Several parties passing by have "taken pity" upon the "warden," and altogether sufficient money has been dropped into the hat to pay twenty or thirty Church-rates. Some persons have sent postage-stamps to the collector in payment of the rates of parties who objected to concede the demands made upon them. Who the persons thus evincing their generosity are is a mystery. The sale of articles seized took place yesterday afternoon, at three o'clock, in front of the New-inn, Kirkham. Mr. W. Robinson, of Poulton-le-Fylde, who sold the articles seized a few weeks ago, officiated as auctioneer. The sale lasted about half an hour. During the proceedings there was much banter and nonsense indulged in; but on the whole, the business was got through in a quiet and good-humoured manner. The goods, which sold at a tolerably high price, were "bought in" by Mr. Richard Robinson, late auctioneer of Over Darwen, and now of Skipplough; and at the conclusion, the auctioneer proposed a vote of thanks to him for his "bids." Afterwards the Rev. W. Knox, Independent minister of Kirkham, addressed the crowd. In the course of his observations he referred to the injustice of forcing men to pay for what they did not believe in; to the tyranny, the bigotry, and the persecution which for some time has prevailed at Kirkham, on the part of those connected with the Church in reference to Church-rates; to the importance and necessity of religious freedom and equality, and to the duty of all who believed in the truths and the vital principles of Christianity doing their utmost to sweep out of existence whatever damaged by oppression or tainted by bigotry the fair and noble temple of pure religion. Mr. John Catterall afterwards spoke in terms condemnatory of the oppression and bigotry manifested in Kirkham by the Church party, and in support of freedom in all things pertaining to religious and ecclesiastical matters. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Knox.

SUMMONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF CHURCH-RATES.—At the West Riding Police-court, at Doncaster, Mr. W. Aldam in the chair, and several other magistrates present, Messrs. Henry Roystone and Michael Harts-horn were summoned by Mr. Frederick Taylor, churchwarden of Tickhill, for non-payment of Church-rates. Mr. Woodhead appeared to defend the persons summoned, and before the case was called on he submitted several objections to the bench: first, that the churchwarden had not been duly elected, a poll being demanded at the vestry when he was nominated, but such poll had not been taken; second, that the Archdeacon at the visitation of the clergy and churchwardens did not administer the oath to the churchwarden of Tickhill; third, that there had been an illegal expenditure by paying the organist's and ringers' salaries; and fourth, that an expenditure contemplated for in the estimate for the rate of 35*l*. for whitewashing had not been carried out. Mr. Aldam said that in the opinion of the Bench the objections were *bona fide*, and without calling upon the churchwarden, the summons was dismissed.

CLERICAL SUSPENSION.—The Bishop of Oxford has withdrawn from the Rev. W. Acworth permission to officiate in the diocese over which he presides. Mr. Acworth was formerly vicar of Plumstead, and has lately been residing at Oxford for family reasons. He has apparently made himself obnoxious to the bishop by his exposure of the practices of the Romanising clergy in the churches of Oxford.

THE FELLOWS OF COLLEGES DECLARATION BILL.—This bill stands for a third reading this day, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy has given notice of opposition, in which opposition he is, we understand, to have all the assistance which the Conservative party can possibly render him. That party were, we believe, mortified as well as disappointed at their defeat, by a majority of twenty-two, on the second reading, and to-day a great effort is to be made to accomplish that which then proved to be impracticable. The division will occur at a time when an unusually large number of members will be in town, and if the Liberals are on the alert they can easily send the bill up to the Lords by a good majority.

DR. COLENZO'S PROGRESS.—A correspondent of the *Natal Witness* draws attention to the fact that, in a new hymn-book which Dr. Colenso has published, with the view of shutting out the use of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern," he has carefully mutilated the hymns whenever in the originals he found the words "Jesus" and "Christ." "God" is substituted for the latter, and whenever either cannot be replaced by a colourless name of the Deity, the verse is omitted altogether. The correspondent believes that the alterations are significant of Dr. Colenso's change into pure Deism. Dr. Colenso denies the inference. He says the omission was purely caused by his excluding all hymns of the nature of prayers to Christ, for of such he does not approve. The *Spectator* of Saturday says:—"We doubt if any faith is worth much which manages to keep outside

prayer, and therefore we say that if by chance Bishop Colenso, holding the central faith of the Church, has got some crochets which prevents his following it into the prayers of the Church, he ought not to expect any one to follow him. But we regret only the more deeply that he should have prejudiced his impregnable position as the representative of perfectly free and open-minded historical criticism,—though his own criticism has always seemed to us more or less uncritical,—by an act of deeper dissent, which can scarcely be held consistent with his position as an English clergyman, either by spiritual or lay tribunals."

THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER AND THE RITUALISTS.—At a confirmation in Holy Trinity Church, Birmingham (a Ritualistic church), there was something of a scene. Immediately after the singing of a hymn, a young man dressed in white walked towards his lordship, reached forward and lifted a long stick, to which a brass cross was attached. The young man seemed for a moment in a difficulty; he stood between the bishop and the Rev. Dr. Oldknow as if awaiting instructions. He was beckoned by Dr. Oldknow, who whispered something to him, and he was about to proceed along the aisle, when the bishop beckoned Dr. Oldknow to him. The rev. gentleman proceeded at once to his spiritual superior, with whom he had a few words of conversation—the congregation in the meantime looking on with evident interest, although the hymn had scarce concluded. The gentleman with the cross seemed to feel his position, which, though of scarcely two minutes' duration, must have been anything but agreeable. The bishop having spoken with apparent decision, and Dr. Oldknow having listened with attentive dignity, the latter motioned to the individual with the cross to return it to the place from which he had taken it. This was at once complied with, and his lordship proceeded to deliver his charge.

ARCHDEACON DENISON AND MR. GLADSTONE.—The *Guardian* publishes two characteristic letters on Mr. Gladstone's Church-rate Bill, the writers being the Venerable Archdeacon Denison and Mr. Gladstone. The archdeacon writes to "My dear Gladstone," asking him to postpone his Church-rate Bill, and his first reason for the request is naive:—"You will, I know, take into consideration the request of one who is obliged to do what little he can to oppose you at every step, if the request be a reasonable one." Dr. Denison wants more time to consult Convocation and the country. Mr. Gladstone "much regrets," in his reply to "My dear Denison," that it is not in his power to comply with the request.

The Church-rates Bill will have been in circulation for nearly a month when we come to read it a second time, that is, to take the very first stage usually debated on such a measure, on Wednesday next; and another interval must elapse before the committee. I will add, for I know you like plain speaking, that the request does not appear to me to be reasonable, taking into consideration the period of the year at which we have arrived, and the several opportunities which will arise for discussion. If there has not been time enough for opponents to consider their course, I may remind you that on the College Tests Bill Mr. Walpole reserved his opposition until the motion for the committee, and that this plan, if adopted, would probably gain your object without unduly impeding us on the way to ours. The Archdeacon sends the correspondence for publication.

DEATH OF MR. J. F. WINKS.—An old townsman, once very conspicuous among us, has lately died. Like most sincere Reformers, he had aroused much political hatred amongst his enemies. He was, nevertheless, a useful and public-spirited man in his day. He helped in the cause of Education, Parliamentary Reform, and Civil and Religious Liberty. He was the sworn foe of Church-rates, and long as this town exists, the name of Mr. J. F. Winks will be associated with the efforts made here to reject the obnoxious impost. Many tough battles were fought in old St. Margaret's Vestry; and when at length the victory was gained, his numerous co-workers presented him with a silver breakfast service, as a token of their high regard. On the silver was engraved what the *Chronicle* of that week calls "a well-earned compliment to Mr. Winks's services." The inscription ran as follows:—"Presented to Mr. Joseph Foulkes Winks by his fellow-parishioners of St. Margaret's, Leicester, as a testimony of their respect for his spirited, efficient, and persevering resistance to the unjust demands of a dominant and intolerant sect, and for his long, disinterested, and highly useful public services, as a zealous and consistent defender of the great principles of civil and religious liberty. August, 1859." It will also be in the recollection of our readers that so lately as last October, another testimonial was given to Mr. Winks, "for his efficient and persevering services in securing and distributing the parish moneys among the various Dissenting Sunday-schools during the last thirty years."—*Leicester Chronicle*.

CHURCH-RATES.—A conference of the archdeacons of all the dioceses of England was held on Thursday, in London, under the presidency of Archdeacon Hale, to consider Mr. Gladstone's Church-rate Bill.

THE CHURCH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Speaking of the colonial bishops' difficulty, the *Church and State Gazette* says:—"Mr. Cardwell has announced that the matter is to be brought before Parliament, and made the theme for the jokes and profanities of the Jews, Romanists, Whigs, and Dissenters, of whom that motley assembly is composed. The Colonial Church only asks to be allowed to manage its own affairs, just as the Wesleyan or any other unestablished body does. And this claim must

be insisted upon." What a humiliation it must be to Episcopalians at home to reflect that matters belonging to their Church must, not occasionally only, but constantly, be dealt with by the "motley assembly" of whom the *Gazette* thus speaks. But it is only when the principle of State-control is involved that this indecent language is held. There is no objection to receive pay, privilege, and power from the "motley assembly."—*Liberator*.

CLERICAL AND LAY CONFERENCE.—On Wednesday, a clerical and lay conference, originated by the Evangelical party of the Eastern Counties, was held at Ipswich. The conference, which was continued on Thursday, was presided over by the Rev. E. Holland, of Benhall Lodge, Saxmundham. The subjects set down for discussion were:—"Original Sin, and the Effects of Adam's Fall on Man's Position and Character," introduced by the Rev. J. Bardsley, rector of St. Ann's, Manchester; "The Evidences of Christianity, how they may be best stated to the People, with Reference to the Scepticism of the Present Day," introduced by the Rev. J. Richardson; "The Lord's Day, its Divine Authority and Perpetual Obligation," introduced by the Rev. W. Cadman; "Foreign Missions," introduced by the Rev. J. Venn; "The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," introduced by the Rev. J. C. Ryle; "Aggressive Measures on Irreligion at Home," introduced by Mr. R. Baxter, &c. On Wednesday evening, the Rev. W. Cadman preached in St. Margaret's Church, Ipswich.

THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SUFFOLK.—A minister in a Suffolk town writes:—"The opposition and oppression Dissenters experience in this county is somewhat terrible. I have two landed proprietors, north and south of me here, who are gradually squeezing Dissenters out of their estates. One of my congregation, a farmer, has just received notice to quit, after an occupancy of sixteen years, a capital farm, and he can find no reason, except that he has left the Church and come to my chapel. The landlord of the parish bought up a property where we had a preaching-station, and, consequently, we are shut out except from one or two little cottages. Anything is tolerable except Dissent. The clergy are most bitter against us. A young man, who held a small portion of land under the clergyman of the adjoining parish, has been turned out of it, because he has become a Christian, and a member of my church. Many of my people are very timid, and fear giving offence to the Church party; and yet they have no reason to fear them, for in every contest and litigation the Dissenters have won their cause."—*Liberator*.

TRIALS OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.—We recently gave a brief account of the melancholy death of the Rev. Mr. Fredoux, French missionary, through the shot of a drunken assailant. *Evangelical Christendom* draws attention to the trials of these devoted missionaries in consequence of the war between the Boers and the Basutos. They are now, we regret to learn, threatened with expulsion from their field of labour. The director of the Paris Mission House has written a letter, of which the following is a translation:—

You have more than once referred, in your excellent publication, to the trials through which, for nearly a whole year, our mission to the territory of the Basutos, in the south of Africa, has been called to pass, and to the continually increasing perils to which it has been exposed. When the hostilities between the Boers and the Basutos commenced, M. Brand, the President of the Free State, guaranteed to our missionaries, by a proclamation, the safety of their persons and the inviolability of their property.

Notwithstanding this promise, several among them have suffered outrageous indignities and considerable losses. Nevertheless their constancy has not failed. They have remained at their posts, endeavouring to lessen the calamities they witnessed by affording protection to the aged and infirm, caring for the wounded, and diffusing around them the consolations of the Gospel.

In the course of the month of February they were threatened with a measure which, if put into execution, will be the ruin of their work. The Chamber of Representatives of the Free State (Volksraad) decreed that the French missionaries should be summoned, under pain of being treated as enemies, to evacuate the country of the Basutos by March 1. The President, M. Brand, opposed with all his power the adoption of this measure, but all his efforts have been useless.

To say nothing of the loss which the cause of Christianity and of civilisation would sustain, the departure of the missionaries would entail the ruin of their establishments. Their parsonages, their churches, their schools, their farms and plantations of every kind, being no longer protected by their presence, would be entirely laid waste. Our brethren, moreover, have not sufficient means of transport to be able to take with them a number of bulky and weighty articles of great value to the Mission, such as furniture, agricultural implements, tools of every kind, presses, types, paper, &c.

What have they actually done? We are as yet in ignorance on this point. But our hearts bleed at the bare thought of the sufferings through which they must have passed. Their resources were almost exhausted; their correspondence was interrupted; they could derive no advantage from the money which we had placed at their disposal. The prospect of seeing these embarrasments increase, and of exposing their wives and children to the greatest dangers, must have thrown them into consternation. Yet how can they abandon a mission founded for more than thirty years, churches which regard them as their fathers, a country in which they have done so much good, and which they have been the first to bring into communication with the civilised world?

The injustice of which our mission has been the object is too flagrant for us to doubt that, sooner or later, God will undertake its defence. Meanwhile, let the entire Church bestir itself, its maternal affection be aroused, and let it speak boldly what it thinks respecting the in-

juries sought to be inflicted on some of its most devoted children. Accept my fraternal salutations.
Paris, May 16, 1866. E. CASALIS.

Religious Intelligence.

SPILSBY.—On May 30th the new Congregational chapel in this town was opened for Divine worship, when the Rev. James Parsons, of York, preached at twelve o'clock from Rev. v. 8. The sermon was listened to with breathless attention by a large congregation. In the evening there was a public meeting, when several of the neighbouring ministers delivered suitable addresses. On the following day sermons were preached by the Rev. D. Robertson, of Peterborough, and the Rev. J. C. Gallaway, M.A., of the Chapel-Building Society. The collections amounted to nearly 60*l*. The interior of the new building is universally admired for its chaste appearance. The architect is Mr. Kennedy, of Glasgow, and the contractor, Mr. Livers, of Spilsby.

CHURCH STREETON, SALOP.—A new Congregational chapel, the foundation stone of which was laid last August by Thomas Barnes, Esq., M.P., was opened on Tuesday last week. It is erected on the Gothic style, and will accommodate 300 persons, at a cost of 1,013*l*. Before last week's services, 419*l*. had been contributed. The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham, to an overflowing congregation, drawn from all the neighbouring districts. In the evening, there was a tea and public meeting. Mr. Barnes, M.P., was to have presided, but, being detained in London by the Reform debate, his place was supplied by George Davies, Esq., of Sutton. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. G. Kettle, G. Soper, G. B. Scott, C. Croft, L. Roberts, Mr. Shaker, and Mr. Woodall. The proceeds of the services, including a bazaar, which realised about 100*l*., was 150*l*.

NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL AT DRIFFIELD.—The Independent church at Driffeld was formed about sixty-six years ago, and the chapel was erected in 1803. For some time past the old chapel has been found inconveniently small, and an effort has also been in progress to raise a sufficient sum to enable the trustees to erect a new and larger chapel, and it has been unanimously agreed to raze the old chapel and erect a larger one on the same site, the enlargement being effected by taking in the large vestry behind and a small open space at the side. All the preliminary arrangements having been made, the Rev. W. Mitchell preached for the last time in the old chapel on Sunday evening; and on Monday morning the contractor commenced taking down the building, and the new works will be proceeded with. About 700*l*. have already been subscribed, several other sums are promised, and in a few weeks a bazaar will be opened towards further augmenting the funds.

GREAT BERKHAMSTEAD.—On Tuesday, the 29th of May, this town was greatly enlivened by the assembling of a large number to witness the ceremony of laying memorial-stones of the new church which is being erected to accommodate the congregation under the care of the Rev. Thomas Snell. The ceremony was performed by W. Rouse, Esq., London, and F. Miller, Esq., Berkhamstead. Instead of trowels, mallets were presented to the above-named gentlemen as more in keeping with the manufacture of the town. A bottle was deposited in the stone containing a short history of the church and the ceremony of laying the stones, the Declaration of Faith and Order, copies of the *Nonconformist*, the *Christian World*, the *Hemel Hempstead Gazette*, and the *Hemel Hempstead Observer*. A suitable address was delivered by the Rev. J. S. Pearsall, and prayer offered by the Revs. W. M. Statham and C. F. Vardy, M.A. A tea-meeting was held in the Town-hall, over which W. Rouse, Esq., presided. The members of the neighbouring churches were well represented. The following ministers took part in the evening meeting—the Revs. W. B. Bliss, J. Collyer, J. Lawton, W. M. Statham, T. Snell, and C. F. Vardy. The collection was stated to be upwards of 178*l*.

CHRISTCHURCH.—On Thursday week the ceremony of laying the memorial-stone of a new Congregational church at Christchurch, Hants, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators, who had assembled together, testifying their appreciation of the interest they felt in such an undertaking, despite the cutting easterly wind then prevailing, took place. The old Independent meeting-house required numerous repairs; it was taken down, and the site is selected for the new building. The new edifice will, according to the designs, have a spire, and, if carried out in accordance with the plans, be constructed in an artistic manner. It will be of considerable size, and accommodate 800 persons. The builder is Mr. Walden, of Christchurch, whose tender is 1,335*l*., but it is thought the cost will amount altogether to about 2,000*l*. W. J. Stent, Esq., is the architect. The proceedings commenced by singing the hymn, "Jesus, where'er Thy people meet," the school children taking the lead. The Rev. John Woodwork having read passages of Scripture appropriate for the occasion, and offered prayer, Frederick Moser, Esq., of Carbury, near Christchurch, laid the stone. Mr. Moser read a statement of the rise and progress of the work. The Rev. Joseph Fletcher followed with an earnest address. The sum of 385*l*. was then given or promised, and placed in a box put upon the stone. The doxology was then sung, after which tea took place at the Town Hall. A public meeting was held in the evening, when Edward Miall, Esq., of

London, presided as chairman. The Revs. J. Woodwork, — Field (Lymington), T. Dunlop (Ringwood), S. Knell (Throop), W. Barlow, and J. M. Newland; and John Norris, Esq., barrister-at-law, and Messrs. W. Lankester and Barling, both from Southampton, addressed the meeting. The meeting terminated by singing and prayer. It is intended to complete the building before the end of the year, and it is also thought that at its opening it will be entirely free from debt. The amount necessary to be raised at the laying of the stone was 621*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*., which, after deducting 385*l*. placed on the stone, leaves a balance of 236*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*., which has yet to be obtained.

LUTON.—The new Congregational Church, Luton, was opened for Divine worship on Tuesday week. It has been built to accommodate 1,300 persons, at a cost of 7,200*l*. Early in the morning there was a public devotional service, presided over by the Rev. J. H. Hitchens, the pastor, and the public service commenced in the church at half-past eleven o'clock. The Rev. Robert Robinson offered the dedicatory prayer; and the Rev. Samuel Martin preached, taking for his text, John xii. 28—"Father, glorify Thy name." At the close of the service the company adjourned to the Town Hall, where a substantial repast had been tastefully provided. John Finch, Esq., undertook the duties of president, and was supported by the Revs. S. Martin, J. H. Hitchens, R. Robinson, J. O. Gallaway, D. Nimmo, J. Little, W. Gould, P. Law, T. Hands, J. T. Stephenson, W. Wonnacott, John Everitt, Esq., — Bartlett, Esq., the Mayor of Dunstable, and others. The company then removed to the spacious and beautiful lecture-hall beneath the church, where tea had been provided by the ladies of the congregation. The room was crowded; fully 700 persons took tea. In the evening service was held in the church, the Rev. Henry Allon being the preacher on the occasion. All the services were largely attended, and the collections good.

WALES.—On the 1st of May a new chapel was opened at Rhostryfan, and the Revs. Mr. Thomas (Bangor), Mr. Ambrose (Porthneady), and Mr. Roberts (Carnarvon), officiated upon the occasion. On the 6th of May a new and handsome Wesleyan chapel was opened at Coedpoeth, and the Revs. T. Aubrey, S. Davies, J. Evans, and J. S. Jones preached to crowded congregations at the opening. The Rev. W. Williams, Independent minister, Nefyn, Carnarvonshire, has resigned his pastoral care at the above-mentioned place, and on the 4th ult. a testimonial was presented to him. A large number of people assembled on the occasion, and a good number of ministers of different denominations, and amongst others the Rev. Mr. Hughes, Vicar of Ceidis, took part in the proceedings, and bore a high testimony to the faithfulness and acceptableness of Mr. Williams as a Christian minister in the town. On the 13th and 14th ult., the Rev. D. Williams, late of the Bala Independent College, was ordained a pastor for the churches of Rhuddlan and Ochryfoed. The Rev. Mr. Williams, Nefyn, preached on the nature of a Christian church, and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths, Amana, asked the usual questions, which were answered satisfactorily by the young minister. Then a sign was given by the churches and the minister, by the holding up of hands, of their acceptance of one another, and a present of books was given the minister. After that, the father of the young minister, a working-man and the father of three Independent ministers, prayed the ordination prayer in a most appropriate and affecting manner. A charge was delivered to the minister by the Rev. M. D. Jones (Bala), and to the church by the Rev. R. Thomas (Rhyll). Several other ministers took part in the services.

LEICESTER.—LONDON-ROAD CHAPEL.—On Sunday and Monday week anniversary services were held in the above chapel, in aid of the building fund; the Rev. J. P. Allen, M.A., preaching on Sunday, and the Rev. G. W. Conder, of Manchester, on Monday; and on Tuesday evening there were recognition services in the same place, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. J. P. Allen as pastor. After a public tea, at which there was a large attendance, a meeting was held in the chapel, under the presidency of Mr. R. Walker, at which a considerable number were present, amongst whom were the Rev. J. P. Mursell, the Rev. J. Barker, LL.B., the Rev. J. A. Pictou, the Rev. J. P. Barnett (Birmingham), the Rev. J. Barker (Blaby), the Rev. S. T. Allen (Birmingham), and others. The meeting having been opened in the usual manner, the chairman said he believed Mr. Allen entered upon his ministry under, upon the whole, the most favourable auspices. Those were what were called admission services; that was a recognition of Mr. Allen, by the other ministers of the town, as one of their number; but he had every reason to believe that Mr. Allen had already won the respect and esteem of his brother ministers in the town, as well as of every one with whom he had come in contact. Mr. Rodhouse stated the circumstances under which Mr. Allen was invited, and that minister then delivered an explanatory address, and after some remarks from his father, the Rev. J. T. Barnett, of Birmingham, spoke on the subject of Church life, enforcing especially the importance of actual spiritual life in the church both individually and collectively. The Rev. Johnson Barker congratulated the church and Mr. Allen on the happy circumstances under which they had met that evening, and assured Mr. Allen of the hearty sympathy of the other churches and congregations in the town. He then proceeded to make some reflections on church organisation, in the course of which he lucidly explained the principle of Congre-

gationalism. The Rev. J. A. Picton followed with some humorous observations on church finance; and was succeeded by the Rev. J. P. Mursell, who glanced at the subject of church work. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the gentlemen who had taken part in the proceedings, and to the chairman, and the meeting was brought to a conclusion with singing and prayer.

BAPTIST COLLEGE, HAVERFORDWEST.—The annual meetings of this institution were held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 29th and 30th. The examinations were partly oral, partly written, and were conducted by the Rev. W. Roberts, Blaenau, in theology; the Rev. T. G. Jones, Nantyllyn (formerly classical tutor of the college), in Greek and Roman classics and Hebrew; the Rev. G. W. Humphreys, B.A., Wellington, in the Greek Testament; the Rev. B. Davies, Cymer, in Butler's Analogy; D. Joseph, Esq., Cardiff, in Butler's Sermons on Human Nature; the Rev. W. Evans M.A., Pembroke-dock, in mental science; the Rev. Edward Jones, Penttyrch, in mathematics; E. Gilbert Price, Esq., in chemistry; the Rev. D. Evans, Dudley, in the English language and history; and in French, by Frederick Earle, Esq., second master of the Haverfordwest grammar school. The testimonials of the examiners were, without exception, of a highly satisfactory nature. Several valuable prizes were awarded to the students in the various subjects of study. The prizes were given to the successful competitors at the general meeting on Wednesday. The English service on Tuesday evening, at Bethesda Chapel, was introduced by the Rev. J. Williams, B.A., Narberth. The Rev. D. Evans, Dudley, one of the first students of the college, preached an admirable sermon, from Isaiah xi. 1, 2. The Welsh service was held on Wednesday evening at Hill Park Chapel, when the Rev. T. G. Jones read the Scriptures and prayed; and the Rev. W. Roberts, Blaenau, preached a valuable sermon from 1 Tim. iv. 14. Both services were well attended, and deep religious feelings seemed to pervade the congregations. The general meeting of members was held at Bethesda Chapel on Wednesday. There were present at that time from sixty to seventy ministers and other friends of the College who had come to its anniversary from various parts of South Wales. D. Joseph, Esq., Ely-rise, Cardiff, was unanimously voted to the chair. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. B. Williams, Pembrey, the chairman called upon the president to read the report, from which it appeared that the Rev. T. Burditt had resigned his office of classical and mathematical tutor since the 1st of October last, at the commencement of the long vacation, which extends through the months of October and November; that the president had been most efficiently aided in the several departments of instruction by the Rev. J. Williams, B.A., Narberth, and other gentlemen; that thirty students had pursued their studies during the session; that seven of these had received and accepted invitations to the pastorate; and that three were prosecuting their studies with a view to matriculation in the London University. The testimony borne by the tutors, examiners, and ministers present, to the character of the students, their success in their studies, and their acceptance as preachers, was calculated to inspire confidence in the institution as adapted, in a very high degree, for the accomplishment of its sacred object. New rules, defining the constitution and directing the future management of the college, were read by the President. The rules were, with some slight alterations, adopted, and ordered to be printed with the report. Further time was allowed the church at Bethesda to seek, as co-pastor with Dr. Davies, a gentleman who will be qualified to take the classical and mathematical chair. The valuable services rendered by the preachers, the examiners, the officers, and committee were duly acknowledged. The meeting throughout was excellent in its tone and spirit; and a large amount of substantial good work was done. The houses bought for the use of the college will be altered and fitted for their intended purpose with as little delay as possible. It is expected that at the beginning of the long term on the 1st of December next the house will be ready, and the college will then enter on a new era, which, it is fervently hoped, will be one of growing prosperity and usefulness.

Correspondence.

THE UNITARIAN BODY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Permit me, with great deference, to question the justice of your comment on the recent debate on Mr. Bache's motion at the meeting of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. The greater number of those who opposed that respected gentleman on the occasion referred to were not actuated by any hostility to the views he set forth, but by a determination to resist every encroachment upon religious liberty, every attempt to set up a test. The definition of Unitarian Christianity proposed by Mr. Bache was unexceptionable. It was defeated because it was considered unnecessary, and likely to lead the way to restrictions entirely subversive of a free church. Nor can I accept your statement that a section of the Unitarian body is verging "towards something resembling Deism." Some men there are in our denomination (as I suppose in all others) who have said things to be regretted; but with all our acknowledged differences of opinion, I verily believe we are united as never we were before, by an intense love for the Saviour; devout recognition of and service towards the great "Author and Finisher of our Faith," is the characteristic not of one section amongst us, but

of all sections of our community. That we fall below our own ideal we should all readily confess, but the same standard is before us all, and the attempt to reach it is being made by all. The title "Evangelical," in many respects may well be applied to Messrs. Bache and Madge. With equal justice it may be given to Messrs. Martineau and Taylor. Differing from these latter gentlemen very often, and entirely opposed to them upon the question of reconstructing the Unitarian Association, I can the more freely say, that conspicuous above their great ability, their extensive learning, their powerful and winning eloquence, is their fervent piety, their reverence for Jesus Christ, their untiring zeal on behalf of Christianity. Humbly asking that these remarks may be inserted in your next number,

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,
R.D. SHELLEY, Unitarian Minister.
Cranbrook, May 31, 1866.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am desirous of supplying a correction of your statement, in last week's *Nonconformist*, relative to the proceedings of the Unitarian Association. The vote on Mr. Bache's motion did not indicate any theological tendency whatever. With the smallest exception, those who agreed with Mr. Bache's theological views opposed his resolution. The question, as understood by the meeting, was not about the expression of belief, but the submission to a test.

I am, yours faithfully,
JOHN GORDON.
Evesham, June 5, 1866.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Hughes, in his valuable letter in your last week's number, refers to a question I introduced at a meeting held at the Rev. S. Martin's chapel, "whether means might not be devised for bringing members of churches more closely together, for securing a more intimate acquaintance and spiritual edification." As the object aimed at in this question has not in some cases been understood, I will endeavour to make clear how I think our churches may have a larger measure of Christian fellowship,—if the members of churches had stated times for the consideration of questions related to Christian experience, practice, doctrine, &c., also for reading together such parts of Scripture as will best explain subjects of doubt or difficulty, confirm and strengthen truths believed, so, by converse, have "fellowship one with another." I believe such meetings are general in Wales: are they suited to our churches in England? I have heard two objections to them. 1st.—You cannot find in our churches a sufficient number of members to sustain the interest. I would say in this objection you have an argument proving that we need some plan by which our church-members shall have their interest in each other increased. 2nd Objection.—You cannot have order, or at least there is a danger you will not always obtain it. I admit the danger. This, I think, is no reason against such meetings as I have suggested, unless you can prove the evil feared is inherent. To prevent, as far as possible, a want of order, also as almost necessary to the existence of such a plan as proposed, it will be needful for the pastor of the church to preside, and introduce the business of the meeting. I am sure many of our church-members feel the need of some means by which especially our young members shall have their interest and Christian life promoted, their church connection and Christian fellowship increased. After reading the letter of Mr. Hughes, and feeling our object one, though our mode of obtaining it is not the same, I venture to ask you to spare a little space in your excellent paper.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,
THOMAS PIDDUCK.
June 1, 1866.

A VILLAGE FUNERAL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Can you find room for the following somewhat striking illustration of the working of the much-vaunted State-Church system? I happened to be strolling through the village of Sonning last evening, and as the bell of the parish church was tolling, I inquired who was to occupy the newly-dug grave which I noticed in the yard. I was informed that a man who had been found drowned two days previously was the destined occupant. A few facts relating to the unhappy man having been supplied by my informant, I was induced to remain during the service. It appeared that the man had during the last week been indulging in every conceivable excess at a neighbouring public-house, and, either in a state of drunkenness, or as a consequence of his protracted debauch, he had fallen into the river and was drowned. As might well be supposed, the funeral of the unknown man, unattended as it was by a solitary mourner, attracted more than usual of the villagers' attention. Now, Sir, picture the scene—an open grave, a parish coffin, &c., standing around, a number of men, women, and children, all more or less acquainted with the wretched antecedents of the dead man. Amidst the intensest silence the parish priest—the man who of all others the people are taught to regard as the authority upon all such matters—proceeds to thank Almighty God for delivering this his brother out of the miseries of this sinful world!—having of course previously uttered the formula, "Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of His great mercy to take unto Himself the soul of our DEAR BROTHER," &c., &c.!

I make no comment on this event, beyond an expression of my earnest desire that you may be enabled with ever-increasing efficiency to attack a system which thus compels an educated gentleman to utter what he well knows to be mere blasphemous nonsense.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ARTHUR CLAYDEN.
Reading, June 1, 1866.

THE TRAFFIC IN INTOXICATING DRINKS.

I.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The frightful crimes, the pauperism, the insanity among us; the depth of degradation to which many thousands of dissolute women are brought; the drunkenness of our sailors, and the demoralisation which they export, disgrace the name of England to the world.

By far the greatest part of these enormous evils is directly chargeable on the traffic in intoxicating drink. There is no need of proving the fact here. The judges again and again make this declaration concerning violent crime. The Earl of Shaftesbury has publicly attested the connection between pauperism and drink. As to pauperism, we all know familiarly what share the solicitations of the drink-shops exert in producing it. No one undertakes to deny the facts; yet, wonderful to say, the most cultivated part of the English community treats them with great apathy, looks with jealousy on every practical plan formed to abate the evil, proposes no plan of its own, but visits with cold censure, or sarcastic, energetic hatred, the plans which others suggest. One might think that on this and several other questions the refined and educated were labouring to make it appear that refinement and education bedim men's political acuteness or paralyse their good sense.

From eighty to ninety peers and squires have taken systematic measures to suppress the drink traffic on their estates, partly by their power as magistrates to refuse spirit licences, partly in stipulations which, as landlords, they insert in leases of houses against converting them into drink-shops. On very many of these estates the trade has long been totally suppressed. The effect of this is reported to be highly satisfactory, beneficial to the neighbourhood, and felt to be beneficial. An active society, called the United Kingdom Alliance, now advises that the ratepayers in each district should receive from Parliament the very same right of suppressing drink-shops as these noblemen and squires have so usefully exerted; only, to secure full debate and vigorous enforcement of the law, it is suggested that two-thirds of the ratepayers should be required to combine in the vote of suppression. To give to a collective taxpaying community the power to carry out, after public debate, and by a two-thirds vote, only that restriction which a single squire by his solitary will enforces on all the occupants of his estate, does not seem a very violent and extreme measure. Even if it were extreme, yet as a remedy to an extreme evil, great severity is often necessary, and not censurable. Nevertheless, this proposal is treated by a majority of educated persons and of routine politicians as something violent, fanatical, and monstrous.

With very little variety, they attack the measure by abstract propositions, which they suppose to be scientific and sacred. All their objections fall under one of three heads. First, it is said, the great vested interests involved in the liquor traffic must not be tampered with. Next, that you must not punish the innocent in order to prevent guilt, which you do if you make your legislation precautionary. Precaution (it seems) is an unendurable restriction of natural liberty, an offensive assumption of paternal care. Or, thirdly, it is hardly avowed that legislation ought not to care for moral interests. Such legislation the objectors are pleased to call "an attempt to make men moral by Act of Parliament." Each of these heads will be concisely treated in the present and two more communications.

1. As to vested interests, we must distinguish the separate classes of tradesmen concerned. A licensed victualler has, by special favour, received a privilege of sale which is refused to others. It was granted to him for no merit of his own, but for the convenience of the community. He knows, and always knew, that he held it on sufferance, and was liable to have it withdrawn. He could in no case complain at its being rescinded, without fault on his part, except if it favoured a rival at his expense. This case cannot occur if the traffic be suppressed in an entire district, and when it is suppressed by a two-thirds vote, it is perfectly certain that no victualler's house will lose in estimation by the suppression. The great probability is that they will all largely gain, by increased respectability. It is certain that thousands of persons who now are unwilling to enter their doors will then be disposed to use their rooms for many purposes. As to the beerhouses, to talk of their vested interests is absurd, and we may leave the victuallers to argue it down. The brewers and distillers remain to be considered.

In days not distant, Parliament was accustomed to prohibit the exportation of corn, or the malting of barley, if deficiency of food was feared; and no one then expected it to compensate the growers of corn, or the brewers, for the loss which they encountered. Precedent would therefore be on the side of refusing compensation, even in the extreme case of totally prohibiting to make malt for sale, or distil from barley. Nevertheless, if ever Parliament see it necessary to adopt this extreme measure, I trust that the topic of compensation to brewers and distillers will be fully discussed; and I, for one, shall not grumble at a new tax for their especial compensation. But the whole question is premature. No one is yet urging such prohibition. On the other hand, it is quite ridiculous to say that brewers and distillers have a right to demand that licences to retail shall be given for their convenience, however pernicious to the community, or that we must buy of them permission to extinguish the shops. The brewer, in selecting the trade, knew perfectly well the terms on which licences were granted. If he greedily believed that the morality of the community would never improve, if he calculated securely on his gains from our drunkenness and folly, his calculations, alas! have hitherto been signally correct; nevertheless, no brewer or distiller has yet thought of prosecuting the late Prince Consort, or Lord Palmerston, or the Duke of Argyll, for suppressing drink-shops on their estates; and it is difficult to imagine that any defeat of the brewers' calculations from a growth of moral earnestness in the people or in the magistrates of a particular district, could ever establish a claim to compensation. But if at length the widespread growth of a moral conviction cause them ruinous losses, by all means let them draw out their bill and present it to Parliament. All just bills we must pay, and no price must be grudged in freeing the nation from a portentous vice. To charge us with "injustice to vested interests" is gratuitous. We leave to Parliament to judge of their claims, and confine ourselves to denouncing the enormous and unendurable evils of the traffic.

I remain, Sir, very respectfully,
FRANCIS W. NEWMAN.
10, Circus-road, St. John's-wood, London, N.W.,
June 1, 1866.

FAMINE IN ORISSA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you oblige the committee of the General Baptist Missionary Society by publishing the accom-

paying letters, or extracts from them, from the Rev. J. Buckley, of Cuttack, India, in reference to the terrible famine now raging in the province of Orissa? More than one hundred children in the schools at Cuttack are entirely dependent upon the missionaries. In addition to them there is a native Christian community of about nine hundred persons reduced to the utmost extremity; while the heathen around are perishing by thousands and myriads from famine and pestilence. This state of things has lasted about eight months, and it is feared that under the most favourable circumstances there must be several more months of scarcity.

Allow me to add that donations in aid of the sufferers will be thankfully received by Thomas Hill, Esq., Arboretum-street, Nottingham, treasurer of the society; the Rev. H. Wilkinson, Leicester, formerly a missionary in Orissa; or the undersigned.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. PIKE, Secretary.

The Crescent, Leicester, May 29, 1866.

P.S.—As help to be of much real service must be immediate, permit me to add that I shall remit to the Rev. J. Buckley, Cuttack, by the next Indian mail, *via* Marseilles, and shall be happy to include in the remittance all sums received on or before Saturday morning next. Will you also allow me to acknowledge through your columns the receipt of the under-mentioned sums in aid of the sufferers:—

	£	s.	d.
Robert Peaz, Esq., Derby	10	0	0
Joseph Wilson, Esq., Clifford, near Sheffield	5	0	0
Miss Atkin, Louth	1	1	0
Miss Martin, Folkestone	1	0	0
Miss E. Martin, Folkestone	1	0	0
Mrs. Wherry, Bourne	0	5	0
Mr. J. Reynolds, Malvern Link	0	5	0

CUTTACK, March 31, 1866.—The state of things is truly awful. It is becoming worse and worse. The famine is sore in the land, and the future is dark indeed. Rice is selling at 5½ seers and 5½ seers to the rupee.* It is impossible that the people generally should procure it at such a price. They must starve. The pressure of the times affects us all, and in a day of unexampled distress like the present, when it is desirable that we should do much more to relieve the sufferers, our personal ability is much diminished. If I were to record all that I have heard during the month, it would be a chapter of horrors; but I shudder to think of some things that have been reported. Last week a man murdered his wife and children, assigning as a reason that they were starving, and he had nothing to give them. More than one case of eating human flesh has been reported, but I have not the heart to record all that I hear. There is no prospect before multitudes but starvation. I have heard of individual cases of suffering among our Christians which have grieved me much. In one case a mother with four or five children assured me that they had not had any rice to cook for three days, and that she and the children had lived on a little fruit and water. In another instance a mother with three children, one of whom was only a few months old, fasted two days.

April 4.—The accounts received since the above was written, especially from the Pooree district, have been distressing beyond measure. I hear of more than one village nearly depopulated by famine and pestilence. Yesterday we had a good fall of rain, and by the appearance of the clouds we shall have more. I hope that rice may be a little cheaper in consequence, but the markets have been very unsettled, and it is difficult to say.

CUTTACK, April 16.—The state of things was truly awful when I last wrote, and I fear is now worse. Rice has been selling for one or two days at four seers the rupee; and unless help be in some way obtained, and that speedily, thousands and tens of thousands must starve. The distress cannot be described, and the thefts and murders of which we hear are frightful. A fortnight ago ten persons were murdered by one man. Brother Phillips, senior, of Santipore, near Jellapore, tells a sad story of the distress in that neighbourhood. He has made an appeal for help through the *Friend of India*, which I hope may be successful. In a private letter to me he says, "In the interior where we are there are no public works, and no large thoroughfares to bring in supplies or carry off the destitute to more favoured parts of the country; so that the distress in famine must be greater than elsewhere. The piteous cries of starving women and helpless children, when we have no means of relieving their wants, are distressing beyond the power of words to express. Hunger, disease, and death are doing a fearful work around us." I fear we must expect five or six months more of scarcity. How shall we carry on during this time? We have daily to feed in the two asylums here a hundred and ten children. Besides these we have to care for some nine hundred native Christians in this district; and our hearts are not steel to the cries of suffering idolaters. We must have help from home, and the sooner it is sent the better. To give promptly is to give double; and without such help our difficulties will soon be very serious.

STATUE TO LORD PALMERSTON.—It has been determined to erect in the open space near the House of Commons a statue to Lord Palmerston. The preliminary steps for the erection of the statue were taken at a meeting of members of both Houses of Parliament last week at the London residence of the Duke of Cleveland. Gentlemen of Liberal and Conservative politics were present. An influential provisional committee was nominated, and it was proposed that, in order to give a large number of persons an opportunity of testifying their respect for the character of Lord Palmerston, 51, should be the maximum of individual subscription.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, ISLINGTON, N.—Number of patients for the week ending 2nd June, 1,103, of which 327 were new cases.

* A Cuttack seer is 2½ lbs. The average price of rice is rather difficult to state, but I should say, for the last few years, twenty-four seers to the rupee. In country places it has been much cheaper, and twenty years ago it was about fifty seers to the rupee here.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday, in committee upon the Law of Capital Punishment Amendment Bill, a discussion arose upon clause 4, which classed murders under two heads—of the first and of the second degree. Lord GREY objected to this division of the crime of murder, and proposed the omission of the clause. The LORD CHANCELLOR justified the distinction between wilful murders and others of a less heinous character, by citing the authority of a majority of the judges and of the Commissioners who had reported upon the subject. After a brief debate, in the course of which Lord RUSSELL and the Duke of RICHMOND spoke in favour of the clause, and Lords ROMILLY and LONGFORD against it, the committee divided, and the numbers being equal, the clause was, according to the practice of the House, declared to be negatived. Upon the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, further progress in committee was postponed, in order that the bill as altered might be reconsidered. The House adjourned at a quarter past six o'clock.

On Friday, the debate on the Selling and Hawking of Goods on Sunday Bill was resumed. After some discussion, in the course of which Lord REDESDALE intimated that the clause making it compulsory on the police to enforce the Act would be abandoned, and the bill confined to the metropolis; the House divided, when, on the motion that the bill do pass, the contents were 39, the noncontents 69. Majority against the bill, 39. The bill is accordingly lost. The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

On Monday, Lord REDESDALE moved that the standing orders on private bills be considered, with a view to their being amended. He pointed out that under the existing standing orders railway projects were promoted by persons as mere speculations, without any guarantee of their responsibility. He proposed that in future a subscription contract should be entered into by twenty subscribers, for at least two-thirds of the share capital, that it should contain a full description of the subscribers, the amount and number of shares, and the total amount paid up; that a deposit of one-eighth of the subscribed capital should be paid into the Court of Chancery; that no transfer of a share should be valid unless at the time of the transfer three-fifths at least of the amount of that share has been paid up in answer to calls. The Marquis of LANRIGARDE moved as an amendment, that "a select committee be appointed, to consider how far it is expedient to amend the standing orders relating to railways."

After a good deal of discussion, Lord REDESDALE agreed to the appointment of a select committee to inquire if any alterations were necessary in the standing orders, which was agreed to.

The Commons' reasons for disagreeing to the Lords' amendments to the Poor Persons Burial (Ireland) Bill were considered and agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ELIGIBLE FRANCHISE BILL.

At the day sitting of the House on Wednesday, Mr. CLAY moved the second reading of his bill for conferring the elective franchise on those who pass a scholastic examination. Mr. GLADSTONE moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months, and argued that it would be impossible to devise any simple and satisfactory mode of determining the intellectual fitness of applicants for the franchise. He succeeded in eliciting a capital illustration of the foolishness of the proposed tests. One of them was the division of money. How many members, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could divide 1,330.17s. 6d. by 24.13s. 8d.? Lord ROBERT MONTAGU promptly declared it could not be done, whereupon Mr. GLADSTONE remarked, amid the laughter of the House, that one illustration was worth a thousand arguments. He gave numerous reasons why the bill should not pass, and moved its rejection. Lord ROBERT MONTAGU was unwise enough to repeat what he had said about the impossibility of dividing the sum named by Mr. GLADSTONE, and gave his adhesion to the bill. Mr. OLIVE and Mr. EWART also supported the measure, as did Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, though he did not agree with all its details. Mr. GOSCHEN described the measure as one that gave the maximum of Liberal profession with the minimum of Liberal results, and said therefore it had the support of the Conservatives. Mr. B. HOPE did not think the bill in its present shape ought to pass, but still he should vote for it. Mr. DENMAN believed the bill would lead to the grossest jobbery if carried. Mr. WHITESIDE saw much merit in the proposal, and supported it. Mr. BRIGHT opposed the bill in a vigorous speech, in which he showed the utter futility of a franchise as that proposed, and asked what state the country would be reduced were it governed solely on the principles of Mr. Whiteside or the three Universities. The only real way to progress in the direction of further enfranchisement was to tread in the beaten path.

I am against these fancy franchises; I stand on the old line of the constitution. (Cheers.) I say our forefathers were generous and just in their views of representation, and I would rather take their opinion and act upon their example than I would take the opinion of hon. gentlemen opposite, who seem to me to change about with a facility that is ludicrous and deplorable—

(laughter)—if by such changes, if by conjunction with any members on this side of the House—(cheers)—they can embarrass the Government and thwart the progress of the Government bill for the representation of the people. (Cheers.) I believe that the passing of this bill now before the House, and of all bills of like nature, would produce throughout the country confusion in that which is now simple. There is no working man in England, I hope there is no hon. member on that side of the House, after what we have heard during the last two months, who can doubt my anxiety to admit the working classes to a fair representation in this House; but I am unwilling to depart from principles which have been long tried, which we thoroughly comprehend, which can give that representation fairly and constitutionally, for any of those newfangled propositions, although they may be introduced, as I doubt not this is introduced, with perfect sincerity by my hon. friend who is the father of this bill. I would address to hon. gentlemen opposite a word of warning. (A laugh.) After looking into their faces for twenty years, and speaking to them, I am afraid too often, they perhaps yet suppose I would say things to them which I did not believe. If they do, they do me a great injustice. I ask them whether, if instead of professing as they do to-day—in vague language—I know what it means—(laughter)—probably to be followed by votes which are not vague—enthusiasm for a wide extension of the suffrage through the door of this bill brought in by the hon. member for Hull, they would not be more consistent with their assumed character of Conservatives if they adhered to the ancient lines of the constitution—(Hear, hear)—and if they found it desirable to admit any number, large or small, to the franchise, if they travelled on the same road their forefathers have travelled, a road which is adequate for all purposes of the most complete and satisfactory representation, along which, I will under take to say, the working men of England look for that emancipation which they claim rather than to any fanciful proposition like that which is now before the House. (Cheers.)

Lord CRANBOURNE said that they were already engaged in meeting the Government measure, he accepted the present bill as a corrective, so that if they were bound to the principle of numbers, they might at least have the assurance that those admitted were properly qualified to exercise the trust.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stigmatised the conduct of the Opposition in regard to this measure as an organised hypocrisy. He thanked Mr. Bright for the speech just delivered. (Ironical cheers.)

The hon. member has often said many things which I have heard and read with pain, not so often in this House as out of it. (Hear, hear.) The admiration I feel for his abilities and distinguished services, and the respect which I have always been disposed to feel for his character, have made me regret most sincerely the things to which I have alluded. (Hear.) They have given an advantage, a very considerable advantage, to the opponents of measures which he has, I believe, for the good of his country, desired to see pass. (Hear, hear.) But on this occasion his sentiments are the same which I believe he has often expressed, and which I and all who attended the meeting at the house of the Premier before the introduction of this bill heard him express—that he never had been, and did not expect that he ever should be, an advocate either of universal or of manhood suffrage; that he adhered to the ancient principle of household suffrage already known to the Constitution; that he expected the ultimate extension of the franchise to go as far as that, but further than that he did not expect or desire to go. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I should be ashamed of myself if, hearing this said by an hon. gentleman who has so often been the subject of attack in this House, I did not in my place here state that for some years past, since I have been able to give my mind to the consideration of this question, I have held opinions substantially the same as those expressed by the hon. gentleman. (Hear, hear.) Of course, I am now stating my own views, and not the views of those near me; but I do think that the present municipal franchise, a franchise given to heads of families inhabiting rated houses, is the point to which we must ultimately advance, and to which on Conservative principles I for one should be well pleased to advance now. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ADDERLEY attacked Mr. Bright and defended the bill. Mr. LOCKE, in a humorous speech, showed the absurdity of the bill, and re-erring to Mr. Whiteside's reference to Mr. Mill's philosophy, said:—

Now, he (Mr. Locke) would admit that he was fond of reading to a certain extent—(a laugh)—but he would also admit that philosophy was not one of the things that particularly charmed him. (A laugh.) A troublesome pursuit, indeed, was the reading of philosophy; for by the time you had got into your head all the dogmas and doctrines of the philosopher, that edition of his books had run out and he wrote another. And what was the consequence? You had always got to do it all over again. (Much laughter.) If you had read your philosopher well, you quoted him. Your friends said, "Who are you quoting?" You perhaps replied, "Mr. Mill." And the remark was, "Ridiculous!" He had asserted the other day that Mr. Mill was in favour of the ballot. His friends said, "Oh dear, no." "But I read it." "Then it must have been a precious long while ago," one of them said; "because it was only the day before yesterday I read his work, and found that he is decidedly opposed to the ballot." (Laughter.)

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, though not approving wholly of the bill, should support it. Mr. AGLAND opposed the bill, strongly objecting to an educational qualification, which was made entirely dependent on the official action of Government employes. Mr. MONTAGU CHAMBERS protested against the bill, and the grounds on which it appeared to be supported by hon. gentlemen opposite, as an attempt to deceive the working classes, because he did not hesitate to characterise the proposals which it contained as an insidious attempt to injure them. ("Divide, divide.") He continued to speak until a quarter to six o'clock, when, in accordance with the rules of the House, the debate stood adjourned.

On Thursday Mr. LAYARD, in answer to Mr. Liddell, stated that though the Chilean Minister had

received his letters of recall there had been no interruption of friendly relations, and, in answer to Colonel Sykes, that the party of Chinese gentlemen at present in this country were not officially accredited from the Court of Peking, but had been merely recommended to the good offices of the English Government, which would do its best to make their visit instructive and agreeable, and he added that in all probability the result would be the despatch of an official mission from Peking.

THE REFORM BILLS.

The adjourned debate on Captain Hayter's amendment, that the system of grouping proposed in the present Bill for the Redistribution of Seats is neither convenient nor equitable, and that the scheme of her Majesty's Government is otherwise not sufficiently matured to form the basis of a satisfactory measure, was resumed by Mr. GOLDSMID, who argued chiefly against the principle on which the Government had selected boroughs for grouping, illustrating his objections by examples, but relying chiefly on the group in which his own borough, Honiton, is included. He recommended that all boroughs under 8,000 should be grouped; that boroughs between 8,000 and 10,000 should only have one member, and that all constituencies above 10,000, whether single boroughs or groups, should have two members.

Mr. GOSCHEN replied that wherever the line was fixed there must be anomalies, and he explained that the Government had drawn the line just where they thought it would be sanctioned by Parliament, and that was the consideration on which they had chiefly acted. He defended the practical working of the line drawn in the bill, and, in answer to an argument of Mr. Goldsmid, asked why a group of 15,000 should have two members, while single boroughs of 40,000 and 50,000 had only one member. He remarked on the singular fact that the objections to the scheme proceeded entirely from members for boroughs which might fairly have expected to be extinguished, instead of being merely grouped, taunted the Opposition with shrinking from the proposal of any amendment raising a question of principle, and appealed to the Liberal party not to permit this great scheme of enfranchisement to be thwarted by an opposition which was based entirely on local interests. The amendment, he declared, would be fatal to the bill, for the Government could not accept a resolution which stigmatised their scheme as inconvenient, inequitable, and immature.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON maintained that it was useless to go into committee with any hope of making it a good bill, and after some strong remarks on Mr. Gladstone's threat to keep the House sitting through September and October, he concluded by recommending that the subject should be referred to a royal commission.

Mr. J. S. MILL, whose opinions had been alluded to by Sir J. Pakington, who had adduced from his works as contrasted with his recent political conduct, a certain inconsistency, proceeded to deny these assertions, and explained that the arguments of his own which had been quoted against him, such as the scheme of a plurality of votes, were used not against a 71-franchise, under which there would be no danger of class ascendancy, but against universal suffrage. He was a strenuous advocate of universal suffrage, but he accepted plurality of voting and the representation of minorities under such a system, as a check on which ever may be the strongest party in the constitution, or the abuse of power by whoever may be uppermost. He wished to explain the passage quoted from his writings as to the Conservative party being, by the law of its constitution, necessarily the stupidest party.

I never meant to say that the Conservatives are generally stupid. What I meant to say was, that stupid persons are generally conservative. (Loud laughter.) I believe that is so obviously and undeniably admitted a principle that I hardly think any hon. gentleman will deny it. Suppose any party, in addition to whatever share it may possess of the ability of the community, has nearly the whole of its stupidity, that party, I apprehend, must by the law of its constitution be the stupidest party. (Laughter.) And I do not see why hon. gentlemen should feel that position at all offensive to them. It ensures their being always an extremely powerful party. (Great and continued laughter.) I know I am liable to a retort, and an obvious one enough, and as I do not mean to allow any hon. gentleman to have the credit of making it, I make it myself. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) It may be said that if stupidity has a tendency to conservatism, socialism and half-knowledge have a tendency to liberalism. Something might be said for that—(hear, hear)—but it is not at all so clear as the other. (Laughter.) There is an uncertainty about it. We cannot count upon it. We cannot tell what the way of thinking may be. It varies from day to day with the last book, but in any case it cannot be equally relied upon, and therefore they are the less dangerous class. They are an uncertain class. But there is a dense solid force in sheer stupidity—(laughter)—and any body of able men with that force pressing behind them may secure victory in many a struggle, and many a victory the Conservative party have gained through that power. (Hear, hear.)

He did not intend to enter upon the merits of the amendment, concurring heartily in Mr. Goschen's remarks.

After some remarks from Mr. Scourfield, Mr. BAXTER expressed his belief that at this period of the Session, as the House could not be expected to sit through the autumn without a greater pressure from without, there was little probability of the bill passing this year without the assistance of the Conservative party, and they, it was evident, had determined to follow their traditional policy and oppose it uncompromisingly. He consoled himself, however, by the reflection that the result of this mistaken policy must

be a more radical measure. He canvassed some of the views on redistribution of seats propounded by the opponents of the bill, which he contended led to equal electoral districts, and corrected mistakes made by Mr. Sandford and others as to the working of the system of grouping in Scotland.

Mr. Mowbray and Mr. Ducane opposed the bill, Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Candlish supported it.

Mr. LOWE (who was loudly cheered by the Opposition on rising) repeated his old complaint that the bill had been introduced without any explanation of its principle, and proceeded, as he said, in his old fashion, to "puzzle it out" for himself. If there was any principle on which a distribution scheme ought not to be founded, it was an abstract right to equal representation, which would make the House a slave to numbers; but he suspected it had a great deal to do with this bill. The only justification of a Reform Bill was to make the House of Commons as complete a mirror as possible of the nation, and if a redistribution scheme was inevitable, advantage ought to be taken of it to correct the tendency to uniformity and monotony of representation, and by dividing large constituencies to diminish the present enormous legitimate expenses of elections, and in illustrating this point he read a startling list from a Parliamentary return of the expenditure in some of the large constituencies at the last election.

The expense of the election for Stafford is 5,400*l.*; Stoke-upon-Trent, 6,200*l.*; Sunderland, 5,000*l.*; and Westminster, 12,000*l.* (Cheers and a laugh.) These are the aggregate expenses of all the candidates. I take them as they come, without picking and choosing. I wish to call particular attention to the case of Westminster, not for the purpose of saying anything disagreeable to my hon. friend (Mr. Mill), for we know he was elected in a burst—I will say a well-directed burst—of popular enthusiasm. (Cheers.) That was honourable to him and honourable to them, and I have no doubt that in the course of the election all that could be done by industry and enthusiasm was accomplished—gratuitously; and I am sure that my hon. friend did not contribute in any way to swell any unreasonable election expenses. His election ought to have been gratuitous, but mark what it cost—2,302*l.* I believe it did not cost him 6*d.* He refused to contribute anything, and it was very much to the honour of his constituents that they brought him in gratuitously. But look to the state of our election practices when such an outburst of popular feeling could not be given effect to without that enormous sacrifice of money. (Hear, hear.) I will now call attention to two or three counties. This subject has not been sufficiently dwelt upon, but it bears materially upon the question before us to-night. (Hear.) I will take the southern division of Derbyshire. The election cost 8,500*l.*, and this is the cheapest I shall read. (A laugh.) The northern division of Durham cost 14,620*l.*, and the southern division 11,000*l.* South Essex cost 10,000*l.*, and North Essex 16,000*l.* (An Hon. Member—"No.") Perhaps it was 20,000*l.* (A laugh.) West Kent cost 12,000*l.*; South Lancashire, 17,000*l.*; South Shropshire, 12,000*l.*; North Staffordshire, 14,000*l.*; North Warwickshire, 10,000*l.*; South Warwickshire, 13,000*l.*; North Wiltshire, 13,000*l.*; South Wiltshire, 12,000*l.*; and the North Riding of Yorkshire, 27,000*l.* Now, I ask the House how it is possible that the institutions of this country can endure if this kind of thing is to go on and increase. (Loud cheers.) Don't suppose for a moment that this is favourable to anything aristocratic. (Hear, hear.) It is quite the contrary. It is favourable to a plutocracy working upon a democracy. (Cheers.)

Grouping, he remarked, was a pretty word, but in this case it had an unpleasant meaning; it resulted in disfranchising integers, and replacing them by exceedingly vulgar fractions.

It reminds one of Watteau and Wouvermans—of a group of young ladies, of pretty children, of tulips, or anything else of that kind. (A laugh.) But it really is a word of most disagreeable significance when analysed, because it means disfranchising a borough and in a very uncomfortable manner re-enfranchising it. It means disfranchising the integer and re-enfranchising and replacing it by exceedingly vulgar fractions. (Cheers and laughter.)

In answering the question, why are the small boroughs to be disfranchised, he read some passages from Lord Russell's last book in their praise, from which he inferred that this particular proposition was inequitable, and likely to lead to injurious results. But if the small boroughs were to be disfranchised, on what ground were they to be re-enfranchised, after being stripped of all the useful functions which they could discharge? It would greatly increase expense to members, the electors would not abate one jot of their claims because they had not got a member all to themselves. Everything would be multiplied by four—(Hear, hear)—subscriptions to volunteers, to schools, to charities, &c. (Cheers and laughter.) They would thus be transformed into expensive constituencies.

You retain them out of veneration—out of traditional veneration for their antiquity, while you strip them altogether of their previous characteristics, uniting them together in an extraordinary way. (Hear, hear.) It is like asking a man to marry three or four wives—(laughter)—it is nothing less than polygamy—(laughter) and it is an aggravated polygamy, for it is asking a man to marry three or four widows. (Great laughter.) The best thing that has been said for the Ministerial side is that the bill is to remove anomalies. We kindly tolerate many anomalies, if they are old and grown up within us and we are used to them, but when people set to work to correct them and create worse ones neither gods nor men can stand it any longer. (Cheers and laughter.)

He examined minutely the circumstances of the groups proposed to be created, showing that the bill in its endeavour to remove anomalies created others greater, both numerical and geographical, and that the effect would be to increase expense, and that they could not be remedied in committee. Passing to the next head—the addition of the third member, which

he characterised as the first step to equal electoral districts, he argued that, taking the operation of the two bills together, the offer of twenty-six additional members to the counties was no boon to the rural interest, pointing out that all the counties selected were mere groups of towns. He could discern no other principle in the proposal but the mere idolatry of numbers, and in reply to this he asserted that, as the most important part of a member's functions was to represent the general interests of the country, the question in regard to a borough was not its size, but the manner in which it discharged this duty. Amid loud cheers from the Opposition he declared that, while the result of the bill would be to stimulate the tendencies of modern society to uniformity and democracy, Mr. Gladstone's object was to take away as much power as possible from the land, although in proposing his terminable annuities he had warned the country gentlemen that ultimately the burden of the debt would rest on the land. Turning to the Franchise Bill, he examined the grounds on which it was advocated by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, and the Attorney-General, contending that they all led to universal suffrage.

The franchise is a very small instalment of flesh and blood, and no one can doubt that those who support the measure on that ground take it as a step to something further, and that there will be a cry for more flesh and more blood. The hon. member for Birmingham stands upon the lines of the British constitution, and he reminds me of a couple of lines of a very excellent American squib—

We stand on the constitution by thunder,
And of that we have bushels of proof;
For how could we trample upon it, I wonder,
If it was not continually under our hoof?

(Laughter and cheers.) The hon. member wants the 71-franchise as a step to household suffrage; and of course the Attorney-General wishes for the same thing. (Laughter.)

Mr. Mill was in favour of universal suffrage with safeguards, and would not universal suffrage easily throw away safeguards altogether? He saw no elements of compromise in the bill, and thought they had heard too much about the honour of the Government.

The honour of the Government obliged them to bring in a Reform Bill in 1860. It was withdrawn under circumstances which I need not allude to, and as soon as it was withdrawn the honour of the Government went to sleep. (Laughter.) It slept for five years. Session after session it never so much as winked. (Cheers and laughter.) As long as Lord Palmerston lived honour slept soundly; but when Lord Palmerston died, and Lord Russell succeeded by seniority to his place—(much laughter)—the "sleeping beauty" woke up. (Renewed laughter.) As long as the Government was kept together by having no Reform Bill, honour did not ask for a Reform Bill; but when, owing to the particular predilections of Lord Russell, the Government was best kept together by having a Reform Bill, honour became querulous and anxious for a Reform Bill. (Cheers.) But that, Sir, is a very peculiar kind of honour. It puts me in mind of Hulsapur's description:—

By heaven, methinks, it were an easy leap,
To pluck bright honour from the pale-fac'd moon;
Or drive into the bottom of the deep,
Where fathom-line could never touch the ground,
And pluck up drowned honour by the locks;
So he, that doth redeem her thence, might wear,
Without corral, all her dignities.

(Cheers.) That is, as long as honour gives nothing she is allowed to sleep, and nobody cares about her, but when it is a question of wearing "without corral" all her dignities, honour becomes a most important and exacting personage, and all considerations of policy and expediency have to be sacrificed to her imperious demands. (Cheers.) But then there is another difficulty. The Government have told us that they are bound in this matter. Now, "bound" means contracted, and I want to know with whom they contracted? Was it with the last House of Commons? But the plaintiff is dead, and has left no executor. (Cheers and laughter.) Was it with the people at large? Well, wait till the people demand the fulfilment of the contract. But it was with neither the one nor the other, because the Under-Secretary for the Colonies let the cat out of the bag. He said that he himself called upon Earl Russell to redeem their pledge. (Laughter.) I suppose he is Attorney-General for the people of England. (Renewed laughter.) He called upon the Government to redeem their pledge. Now, one often hears of people in insolvent circumstances who want an excuse to become bankrupt getting a friendly creditor to sue them. (Laughter.) And this demand of the hon. gentleman has something of the same appearance. (Cheers.) But there has been a little more honour in the case. The Government raised the banner in this House, and said they were determined we should pass the Franchise Bill without having seen the Redistribution Bill. Well, they carried their point, but carried it by that sort of majority that though they gained the victory they scarcely got the honour of the operation, and if there was any doubt about that I think there was no great accession of honour gained last Monday in the division, when the House really by their vote took the management of the committee out of the hands of the Executive. All these things don't matter much to ordinary mortals, but to people of a Castilian turn of mind—(laughter)—they are very serious. Sir, I have come to the conclusion that there must be two kinds of honour, and the only consolation I can administer to the Government is in the words of Hudibras:—

If he that's in the battle slain
Be on the bed of honour lain,
Then he that's beaten may be said
To lie on honour's truckle bed.

(Much laughter.) Well, Sir, as it seems to be the fashion to give the Government advice, I will offer them a piece of advice, and I will give them Falstaff's opinion of honour:—

What is honour? . . . a trim reckoning. . . . I'll none of it. Honour is a mere scutcheon, and so ends my catechism.

(Laughter and cheers.)

It was his firm conviction that the country did not desire any of the objects aimed at by this bill

—such as giving the Liberal party a long lease of power, diminishing the influence of the land, destroying the balance of parties, breaking the close connection between the Government and the House of Commons. He thought they would be acting in accordance with enlightened public opinion by deferring that measure for another year.

I press most earnestly for delay. The matter is of inexpressible importance; any error is absolutely irretrievable; it is the last thing in the world which ought to be dealt with rashly or incautiously. We are dealing not merely with the Administration, not merely with a party, no, not even with the Constitution of the kingdom. To our hands at this moment is entrusted the noble and sacred future of free and self-determined government all over the world. (Hear.) We are about to exchange certain good for more than doubtful change; we are about to barter maxims and traditions that have never failed, for theories and doctrines that never have been tried. (Cheers.) Democracy you may have at any time. Night and day the gate is open that leads to that bare and level plain, where every ant's nest is a mountain and every thistle a forest tree. But a Government such as England has, a Government the work of no human hand, but which has grown up the imperceptible aggregation of centuries—this is a thing which we only can enjoy, which we cannot impart to others, and which, once lost, we cannot recover for ourselves. (Loud cheers, on the subsiding of which the right hon. gentleman turned towards the Treasury bench and continued):—Because you have contrived to be at once dilatory and hasty heretofore, that is no reason for pressing forward rashly and improvidently now. We have not agreed upon any details, we have not come to any accord upon this question. To precipitate a decision in the case of a single human life would be cruel. It is more than cruel—it is parricide—in the case of the Constitution, which is the life and soul of this great nation. If it is to perish, as all human things must perish, give it at any rate time to gather its robe about it, and to fall with decency and deliberation.

To-morrow.
Oh, spare it; spare it!
It ought not so to die!

(The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and long-continued cheering, accompanied by the unusual manifestation of clapping of hands in various parts of the House.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, after a high compliment to Mr. Lowe, referred to the spectres of evil he had conjured up, and pictured him as lost in contemplation of the ruin which threatened the land.

My right hon. friend reminds me of a painting which the painter thought so good that he exposed it to public view, and invited all who saw it to take the brush and paint out the part of the picture which they did not admire. My right hon. friend has taken the brush and painted it all over—(cheers)—and I venture to think that, however good the bills might be, and however striking their merits, my right hon. friend would have found in them something to criticise and much to find fault with. (Hear, hear.) Well, after we have heard, with a pleasure which it is impossible not to feel, the observations of my right hon. friend, we cannot help asking ourselves what do they all mean—(cheers)—what is the political result my right hon. friend is driving at, and whether, if the House means to identify itself with his conclusions, the country will indorse the determination. (Cheers.) My right hon. friend said, "This is the state of the case: what shall we do?" I think I could answer the question somewhat more in accordance with my right hon. friend's own mind than by the words which he himself used. The answer should have been, "Why, do nothing at all." That is really what my right hon. friend means—(cheers)—that we are all under a mistake in imagining that there is any question here which deserves or requires any settlement. The only thing which will avert these frightful anticipations of ruin, anarchy, democracy, and destruction in which he always indulges, is simply to stand on things as they are because they are. (Cheers, and "Hear, hear.") On things as they are, because they are, and not for any particular reason. My right hon. friend does not pretend to say that the 104 franchise rests on any principle capable of being even explained to the House and the country; all he says is, "Move an inch from that point, and you are lost: you are on the high road to ruin." (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. Lowe wished Reform to be deferred to another year—to the millennium. (Hear, hear.) But, then, when, either by those who were now in power, or by those who should succeed them, or by those who, at no distant time, should replace those successors, this question must and would be settled. Sir Roundell Palmer then went into an elaborate comparison of the expressed opinions of the leaders of the Opposition to show that they were all agreed that the subject must be dealt with, but that they differed widely as to the mode of settling it. He argued that the 71 franchise would admit the upper stratum of the working classes, and need create no alarm; and denying that it would be impossible to take a stand on household suffrage, he showed that the educational tests and lateral franchises advocated on the other side were more likely to lead to universal suffrage, and expressed the opinion that probably the next stage would be the ancient constitutional rated household suffrage. The redistribution scheme, he maintained, was more in harmony with the theory of the Constitution than Mr. Disraeli's plan of eliminating the urban element from the counties. He then referred to the consequences of rejecting the bill.

It is impossible for any Government long to exist that does not settle it, and it is equally certain that it cannot be settled except by some considerable reduction of the franchise. That was distinctly admitted in 1860, it was admitted by the right hon. member for Oxfordshire last year, and it would be worse than idle to think that satisfaction could be given to those whom we ought to satisfy, and put an end, for a considerable time at all events, to the desire for further change on any other principle. If hon. gentlemen opposite think they have a favourable prospect for settling the question I congratulate them upon it; but with the discordant opinions which prevail on the

benches opposite—with the opinions of the noble lord the member for King's Lynn, one of those gentlemen whose opinions I most respect in this House—with the opinions of the hon. member for Stamford and the opinions of the right hon. gentleman the member for Oxfordshire, I think they will have considerable difficulty in satisfying the country that they have any prospect of settling this question. What may be the consequences to themselves and their party it is not my business to inquire. All I venture to say is that the time has arrived when this question must be dealt with, and dealt with seriously; instead of which the proposals of the Government have been met by motions of an evasive character, tending to elude and put off the real question, and by reasons as to time and procedure which may always be found in abundance with regard to any measure.

The debate was then adjourned.

The Customs and Inland Revenue Bill was read a third time and passed.

A sharp discussion arose on a motion by Colonel Taylor to issue a new writ for Bridgewater, Sir H. VERNY moving as an amendment an address for the issuing of a Royal Commission to inquire into the existence of corruption there, but ultimately the motion was carried by 123 to 12.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at ten minutes past two o'clock.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

On Friday, in reply to Mr. Gore Langton, Sir G. GREY stated that the Government had sent out circulars to the local authorities in England and Scotland, asking for detailed information with respect to the number of cattle slaughtered under the compulsory clause of the Cattle Plague Act, and their value. As yet returns had only been received from about one-half of the local authorities. The Government intended to apply to Parliament for a loan for the county of Chester.

In reply to Mr. Owen Stanley, Mr. C. FORTESCUE said he believed there had been seven cases only in Ireland which had been pronounced to be the cattle plague, and they had all arisen on three farms in the County Down. He believed the disease was now stamped out.

MR. WHALLEY.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, Sir G. GREY appealed to gentlemen who had motions on the paper to postpone them in order to allow the adjourned debate on the Reform Bills to be resumed, but

Mr. WHALLEY, who stood third on the list, proceeded to move for a select committee to inquire and report as to the origin, object, and extent of the Fenian conspiracy now or lately existing in Ireland, and especially whether it is in any and what degree connected with any form of religious belief. The hon. member, whose remarks were received with great laughter and derisive cheers, stated at some length his reasons for believing the Fenian conspiracy to be attributable to the intrigues of the Roman Catholic priesthood. An HON. MEMBER, amid much laughter, and in the presence of a very full House, moved that the House be counted. There was an immediate rush to the door; but, without proceeding to count, the SPEAKER appealed to Mr. Whalley to rest satisfied with the remarks he had already made, seeing that the House was impatient to resume the adjourned debate on the Reform Bill. Mr. WHALLEY expressed his readiness to accede to the wish of the House, and accordingly withdrew his motion.

THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate was then resumed by

Sir H. CARRIS, who pointed out that the expense of contesting a grouped borough under the provisions of the second bill would be double or threefold the expense of contesting a single borough of the same size. He objected also to the proposed system of grouping as not natural. It was fallacious to suppose that the system of grouping would give the advantage of a mixed constituency. In one sense it would be mixed, no doubt; but it would be a mixture of voters who had no interests in common, instead of the fusing of persons whose interests were identical, although their callings were separate and distinct. His next objection he regarded as a very grave one. He would not accuse the Government of deliberately constituting groups which were politically unfair, but he was afraid the House would think that in practice the bill was made to pass, and that the arrangements it contained for grouping were really most unfair. Altogether seventy-nine seats were disturbed by the arrangement proposed by the Government, and of those seventy-nine, thirty-one were supporters and forty-eight opponents of the Government. If instead of taking a population of 8,000 as the line, 10,000 had been taken, eighteen other seats would have been included, fourteen of which were filled by supporters, and only four by opponents of the Government. It would have been much more fair to have taken 10,000 as the standard, which was the case with regard to the Reform Bill of 1832, because the result in that case would have been that the seats disturbed would have affected each political party in an equal ratio. Reverting to the proposal for redistribution, he asked what England had done that she should be deprived of a portion of her representation in order that it might be given to Scotland, which to a certain extent had peculiar laws and social distinctions. The bill introduced a system of grouping vicious in principle and operation, and it contained no adequate provision for the representation of unrepresented towns. If the question of Reform was to be dealt with at all, it ought to have been introduced in the month of February, and in as complete a form as possible. Instead of that, the bill was not produced until the 12th of March, and then either by an error of judgment or

an adroit manoeuvre it was introduced in a most incomplete form. Great delay had since arisen in discussing the measure, and now at the last moment the House was asked to pass an ill-considered and incomplete scheme, simply to escape the reproach of having done nothing, and for the sake of what was called "settling the question."

Mr. AGLAND contended that the Government had redeemed their pledges by introducing these bills, and censured the Opposition for their timid suspicion and mistrust of the upper rank of the working-classes. He believed that the bitter hostility given to the bill by the Opposition was because they dare not discuss the proposals of Government in detail in committee.

Mr. B. COCHRANE, adverting to the epithet "honest" so often applied to the bill, repeated what he had heard from Mr. White, that not fifty members would support it if votes were given by ballot. He denounced it as an advance towards democracy. He did not believe there was a better class of working men to be found in the world than the working men of England; but there was an organisation of terror spread over the land which might be used by the leaders of the movement. Adverting to the willingness of some members of small boroughs to sacrifice their seats, he said:—

There were "lamb," it appeared, in that House as well as in Nottingham—(laughter)—and the innocents in question reminded him forcibly of Pope's well-known lines:—

The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
Had he thy reason, would he skip and play?
Pleased to the last, he crops the flowery food,
And licks the hand just raised to shed his blood."

(Cheers and laughter.) And, turning to those supporters of the bill who represented boroughs with populations of between 8,000 and 10,000, and which were for the moment to be spared, might he not add,—

Oh, blindness to the future!

(Renewed laughter.) What, he might ask them, did they expect would be their own fate after they had helped to carry that measure? Did they fondly think that when the smallest boroughs had been sacrificed their own boroughs would not be the next victims? Why, they might be sure that their turn to bleed would come next, that batch would succeed batch until the whole had been cut off in detail, and the universal *butine* of small boroughs had been consummated. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. C. W. MARTIN claimed for his constituents at Newport the credit of being ready to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of the country,—a piece of patriotism which was immediately repudiated with great decision by Mr. KENNARD, the other member for Newport.

The discussion was continued—a score or more members springing to their legs in different parts of the House as each speaker sat down—by Mr. LEATHAM, who supported the bill; by Colonel H. LINDSAY, who maintained that extension of borough boundaries, grouping of unrepresented boroughs, and the prevention of bribery and corruption, ought to be the chief items of a reform bill, and criticised the arrangement proposed for grouping his borough, Abingdon; by Mr. A. PHEL, who, while supporting the bill, admitted that it bristled with anomalies, and especially it disregarded geographical convenience. Sir E. LECHMER explained the injustice inflicted on his borough (Tewkesbury) by the bill. Mr. HOLDEN (Knarborough) professed his willingness to assist at his own political extinction for the public good. Major JERVIS complained of the grouping of Harwich with Maldon, and though a friend of the working classes, denied that the bill was honestly intended for their advantage. He also contended that there was no proof that working men had any sincere desire to possess the franchise, as was shown by the returns for several of the larger constituencies at the last election, and the number of persons who then abstained from going to the poll.

The LORD ADVOCATE put it that long as had been the time during which the House had been discussing the question of reform, it would not be easy for the country to come to a conclusion as to what their opinions really were on that subject. In the present debate there had been no consideration of principles, but details which ought to have been dealt with in committee had been minutely discussed. The question of the grouping of boroughs did not involve any vital principle, but was, in fact, a matter of detail. The right hon. gentleman proceeded to reply to some of the arguments of Sir H. Cairns, and especially showed that Scotch boroughs were not grouped for the purpose of extending, but for diminishing representation, and the same principle was sought to be applied to small English boroughs which were now over-represented. As to the geographical difficulties which had been named as objections to the proposed grouping, none of them would compare with those which existed in Scotland, and they had been found no real obstacle to the working of the system. As to corruption, the junction of two or three towns must surely tend to diminish that. He controverted the insinuation that in disturbing the existing system of seats the Government had exhibited partiality to the constituencies which returned members of their own political persuasion. As to giving a third member to large constituencies, there was a new-found alarm that it was a step to universal suffrage, whereas the plan was not new, and had in practice not worked badly. He argued in favour of an extended franchise; saying, in reference to the objection that it would lead to democracy or government by numbers, that the House of Commons was the embodiment of democracy and government by numbers. ("Oh, oh!")

He used that term as a distinction from oligarchy and government by classes. Our Government was not democracy but a mixed Government of Lords and Commons. (Hear, hear.) The oligarchical element was

entirely excluded. He ventured to say that his doctrine had never been gainsaid by any writer on the Constitution—viz., that the House of Commons was an embodiment of democracy—an embodiment of government by numbers. It did not follow, however, upon this that every one should be admitted to the franchise. A man was enfranchised because he was a citizen, and because he was qualified to exercise the franchise; and those were excluded who were not qualified to give an intelligent, independent, and honest vote. Intelligence, integrity, and independence were the things sought, and when found the task was done. That was the true doctrine of a Liberal and free Government; and he ventured to say that instead of losing those ornaments of which his right hon. friend was so justly proud in the aristocratic classes, they would be multiplied by a freer and more open air. He was not afraid of the working classes. The House had heard too much about class influence—there was nothing of the kind recognised in the Constitution. The country did not depend merely upon the franchise, but upon other and more subtle elements. This country had its roots deep in the soil of old tradition. (Hear.) It was strengthened, nourished and nurtured by the atmosphere of free public opinion, and that being the case he had no fear at all. (Hear, hear.) The Constitution would be strengthened by following out or returning to its first principles, and carrying enfranchisement to those who were qualified by industry, integrity, and intelligence to exercise it, and drawing such a line as would best suit and promote the interests of the country. (Cheers.)

Lord JOHN MANNERS moved the adjournment of the debate.

Lord ELCHO asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if, in the event of the amendment being rejected, it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the measure with an intention of passing it into law in the present session. It was currently reported that in the event of the Government obtaining a majority the bill would be withdrawn.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the question was of an unusual character, and no notice of it had been given. He knew nothing of the rumours which had reached the noble lord, and was sceptical as to their currency. The proper time for declaring the intention of the Government would be when it became his duty to address the House in the course of the debate.

The debate was then adjourned.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

THE REFORM BILL.

On Monday, there was a short and sharp prelude to the Reform debate. Lord ELCHO repeated his question of Friday night as to whether the Government, in case they were successful in defeating Captain Hayter's amendment, intended to withdraw the Distribution of Seats Bill. Mr. HADFIELD wanted to know if the Government had been informed that Capt. Hayter intended to withdraw his amendment. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying first to Mr. Hadfield, said the Government had had no communication with Captain Hayter. As to Lord Elcho's question, he declined in effect to give any answer to it. Sir HUGH CAIRNS wanted to know if the Government adhered to its resolution not to pro-rogue Parliament till the bills were either carried or rejected. Again the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declined to give any answer. Mr. HADFIELD addressed himself to Capt. Hayter, and wished to know from him whether he intended to withdraw his motion. Capt. HAYTER replied that he could not just then come to a decision. Sir T. BATESON thereupon wanted to know if the Government had been to the gallant captain with any promises of manipulation of the Distribution of Seats Bill. Capt. HAYTER replied emphatically in the negative. Mr. HORSMAN wanted to know if the Government would stand or fall by the bill. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that if the Government had changed the intention they had submitted to the House, they themselves would have taken the course of stating that change, and not have waited until they were asked. (Cheers.)

The adjourned debate on the Reform Bill was resumed by Lord J. MANNERS, who criticised the details of the measures, and opposed especially all the provisions of that for the redistribution of seats.

(Continued on page 461.)

Postscript.

Wednesday, June 6, 1866.

THE CRISIS IN EUROPE.

PARIS, June 5.—The *Moniteur du Soir* says:—"Intelligence received here from Kiel announces that Prussia is preparing to reclaim the right of co-possession of the Duchies as existing previous to the conclusion of the Gastein Convention. General von Manteuffel is stated to have received orders to allow the Austrians to re-enter Schleswig should they desire. General von Manteuffel himself would only take possession of those cantonments in Holstein not occupied by the Austrians."

VIENNA, June 5.—The *Abendpost* of to-day justifies Austria's proceedings at the Federal Diet in reference to the Elbe Duchies as a means for the preservation of peace, and warns Prussia energetically against the consequences of her refusal to acknowledge the decision of the Federal Diet. Count Mulinen has arrived here from Paris. Count Blome is still staying in this city.

PRAGUE, June 5.—In case of war the Emperor of Austria is expected to arrive here. Strict regulations

have been issued in reference to passports on the Bohemian frontier.

BERLIN, June 5.—The Prussian Cabinet has forwarded a despatch to the neutral Powers protesting against the declaration of Austria at the Federal Diet upon the Schleswig-Holstein question, and announcing that Prussia will regard the convocation of the Holstein Estates as involving a breach of treaties already concluded, and by which the co-possession of the Duchies should each give their consent to this measure. The Superior Evangelical Church Council has issued a letter to the clergy exhorting them to rally round the King and the Government. The Council points out the equality of all the religious confessions established in the country, by which all citizens are now harmoniously united.

POTSDAM, June 5.—The Royal Bodyguard left here to-day, after having been inspected by the King.

KIEL, June 5.—An ordinance has been published, dated to-day, signed by General von Gabletz, convoking the Estates of Holstein, by order of the Emperor of Austria, for the 11th inst. The Deputies or their substitutes are to assemble at Izehoe, and the discussions are to be terminated within three months.

STUTTGART, June 5.—It is asserted that the conference between the King of Wurtemberg and the Grand Duke of Baden has led to a thorough understanding between the two Sovereigns.

MILAN, June 5.—The *Perseveranza* of to-day publishes letters from Venice, announcing that the Central Congregation had protested against the recent forced loan of 12,000,000 florins, declaring it to be unjust and impossible of realisation in the present condition of Venetia.

At Monday's Conference in Paris relative to the Danubian Principalities, the Turkish representative renewed the protest of the Porte against the installation of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, and demanded an armed intervention in the Principalities. The Russian representative strongly opposed this proposition, giving it to be understood that should the Porte intervene in the Principalities, Russia would take a similar step. The Conference came to no resolution upon this point. The relations of the Powers with Prince Hohenzollern will continue to be of a semi-official character.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords the Earl of CLARENDON, in reference to some comments on his conduct at the Congress of 1856 made by Mr. Disraeli on the previous evening, denied that he had attempted to assist in putting down the free press of Europe, although he had remarked on the license of the press of Belgium as calculated to endanger the relations between France and that country.

On going into committee on the Public Schools Bill, Lord HOUGHTON urged the advisability of adding representatives of art and science to the special commission.

In committee on the bill, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH objected to the nomination to scholarships being thrown open to competition, and moved an amendment against that provision.

The amendment, on a division, was rejected by 58 to 38.

A proposal of Lord HOUGHTON, to add Lord Wrottesley to the special commission, was, on a division, lost by 44 to 39.

The bill passed through committee with some verbal amendments.

The LORD CHANCELLOR brought up a message from the Crown, intimating the marriage of the Princess Mary of Cambridge with Prince Teck, and requesting the aid of the House in making provision for her Royal Highness.

The Pensions Bill passed through committee.

The Burials in Burghs (Scotland) Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at forty minutes past seven o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonham-Carter took the oaths and his seat on his re-election for Winchester.

Mr. BERKELEY gave notice that he should move a resolution on the ballot on a future day.

In answer to Mr. D. Griffith, Mr. LAYARD said that there was reason to believe that the author of two recent forgeries of official letters from the Foreign-office to the newspapers was the same person, and inquiries were going on upon the subject.

In answer to Mr. Laird, Mr. T. G. BARING said that her Majesty's Government were aware that there were several iron-clad vessels of other nations in the Pacific, carrying the heaviest guns. He declined to state what the movements of her Majesty's ships were to be; but he might say that an ironclad ship had been sent on an experimental cruise to the North American station.

In answer to Sir S. Northcote, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was not intended to bring on the Terminable Annuities Bill on Thursday, but the bills for Parliamentary reform would be the business of the evening, after a communication from the Crown in reference to a member of the royal family had been considered. A series of amendments on the Reform Bill, in order to fuse them into one bill, would be in the hands of members this day, and the bills as a draft bill would be printed, and he moved that they be so printed.

After a discussion on the point of order, the motion was withdrawn.

In answer to General Peel, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that it was substantially correct that

the proposed congress has been given up, Austria having intimated that it should be agreed beforehand to exclude from the deliberations of the Conference all questions of territorial augmentation, or increase of power, on the part of any State. The Governments of France and England were coincident in opinion that, under such circumstances, any hope of proceeding usefully with the Conference was at an end.

Mr. M'EVOR moved that the recommendations of the select committee of 1858 and 1865, that the Government should take into consideration the claims of Ireland to a grant of the half cost of medical officers and schoolmasters and schoolmistresses of unions, with a view of providing for the same in future, as is now the practice in England and Scotland, should be acceded to.

Mr. DAWSON seconded the motion, and took occasion to dwell on the local charges for the constabulary.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that he was prepared practically to accede to the motion. The details of the subject would be considered, and provision would be made in the estimates of next year for the purpose sought. As to the Irish constabulary, it should be remembered that while the population of Ireland had decreased the charge for that body had increased in great disproportion.

After some conversation, the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. B. COCHRANE moved for a royal commission to inquire into the constitution of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the Office of Public Works, and the Office of Woods and Forests, with the view of ascertaining whether some means may not be devised by which the improvements of the metropolis may be carried out in a more comprehensive and economical manner, and with greater unity of purpose.

Mr. ARSTON was of opinion that the course pursued by Mr. Cochrane was not calculated to promote his object. He was rather unfortunate in his suggestions, for the three departments which he proposed to amalgamate had been formerly united, and it had been found necessary to separate them, so multifarious were their duties, and so great the confusion that prevailed in them. A committee was already sitting to inquire into the working of the Metropolitan Board.

Sir W. JOLLIFFE suggested an attempt to regulate the traffic of the streets generally.

Mr. COWPER thought that the motion was inopportune, and the suggestions made by the mover impracticable. It could not be desirable to supersede the committee now sitting on this very subject by a commission before it reported. He admitted the inconveniences attending the internal management of the metropolis, owing to divided and subdivided authority, and the absence of comprehensive municipal institutions; and it was in the establishment of efficient municipal government that the remedy must be sought.

A discussion which followed was concluded by the withdrawal of the motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought up a message from the Crown, stating that a marriage had been agreed on between the Princess Mary of Cambridge and Prince Teck, and asking the aid of the House towards making a provision for her Royal Highness.

The message was ordered to be taken into consideration on Thursday.

The House was shortly after counted out, at twenty minutes to eight o'clock.

STATE BALL AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—By command of the Queen a State Ball was given last evening at Buckingham Palace, to which a party of upwards of 1,700 was invited. The Prince and Princess of Wales, with the members of the Royal family, conducted by Viscount Sydney, the Lord Chamberlain, and attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, entered the ballroom soon after ten o'clock, when the dancing immediately commenced.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH went into the City yesterday, and was made free of the Merchant Taylors' Company. After the ceremony his Royal Highness took luncheon with the officers of the company.

MONDAY'S DIVISION.—It appears from the division list printed yesterday that the two hon. members who voted on Monday night against reporting progress were Mr. C. R. Colville and Mr. Whalley. The tellers were Mr. Monk and Mr. Haddid. The majority of 423 was composed pretty equally of Liberals and Conservatives.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market to-day the arrivals of home-grown wheat were very moderate. Most samples were received in tolerably good condition, yet the trade was generally slow, at Monday's currency. The market was moderately supplied with foreign wheat. The amount of business transacted was limited; nevertheless, prices ruled firm. Floating cargoes of grain moved off slowly, but at full quotations. The supply of English barley on sale was small, but there was a good show of foreign produce on the stands. The barley trade ruled quiet, at late rates. Malt sold slowly, at Monday's currency. The supply of oats on sale was tolerably large. The demand for all qualities was in a sluggish state, at barely late prices. Beans and peas were steady, at full quotations. There was a fair demand for flour, at late rates.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English and Scotch	990	—	1,250	—	220
Irish	—	5,150	—	—	—
Foreign	9,990	20,010	—	20,010	—

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1866.

SUMMARY.

MR. GLADSTONE, in the House of Commons last night, and the latest telegrams from the principal capitals of Europe, too abundantly confirm the announcement that the proposed Paris Conference is at an end. The exact reasons for the failure were stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be that Austria "required beforehand an assurance from all the Powers which were to take part in the projected Conference that they should be ready to renounce the pursuit there of any special or particular interest, to the detriment of the general tranquillity; going on further to explain that sentiment by stating that, as a condition to be complied with by the Cabinets desirous of peace, it appeared to Austria indispensable that they should be agreed beforehand to exclude from the deliberations of the Conference anything that would tend to give to any of the States invited and attending at that meeting any territorial augmentation or increase of power." After this declaration, France considered a Conference impossible, and the British Government concurred in that view. It is worthy of note that the French Ministerial journals unite in throwing upon Austria the responsibility of "precipitating events."

The preliminary manifestoes, which are intended to establish a *casus belli*, and which usual precede the outbreak of hostilities, are beginning to appear. Prussia has forwarded to the neutral Powers a despatch protesting against the declaration of Austria at the Federal Diet upon the Schleswig-Holstein question, and announcing that Prussia will regard the convocation of the Holstein Estates as involving a breach of treaties already concluded, and by which the co-possessors of the Duchies should each give their consent to this measure. Austria has also sent a note to the other great Powers of Europe, explaining and vindicating the course she has taken in the Federal Diet, and her official journal warns the King of Prussia of the consequences of refusing to recognise the decision of that body. Not satisfied with verbal protests, the Kaiser has actually convoked the Holstein Estates for the 11th inst., thus violating, according to Prussian ideas, the Gastein Convention. The body guard of King William has been despatched to Silesia, where the huge armies of the two German Powers are in battle array, and where the first shock of arms is likely to be felt. In Holstein, there are signs that a collision will be avoided—at least for the present.

The preparations for the gigantic struggle are nearly completed on both sides. Austria having had several weeks start, has all her armaments ready, and is said to rely upon the moral support of Russia, which has a large force on the Silesian frontier, and to reckon upon the active co-operation, if needs be, of the Sultan, who is alarmed at the intrigues of Italy among his Slavonian subjects with a view to create a diversion in Hungary. The Italian Government, carried along by the popular enthusiasm, have been obliged to double the volunteer army under Garibaldi, but the youth of all ranks of society still press forward, eager to take part in the national crusade for the deliverance of Venice. As soon as Prussia gives the signal, hostilities will no doubt commence on the Venetian frontier, or an attempt will be made by an expedition to the Adriatic to take the Quadrilateral in the rear, and isolate that almost impregnable position. In Florence the war is expected to begin about the middle of the present month.

There is reason to hope that the European complications will not be increased by an intervention in Roumania. Turkey, eager to vindicate her claims in the Principalities, has been warned by the Powers who signed the Treaty of 1858 that an

occupation of those provinces would be followed by the appearance of a Russian army, and might prove fatal to the interests of the Ottoman empire. Prince Charles may, therefore, occupy his new throne in peace.

The cruel and barbarous Government of Spain have received a well-merited chastisement. The Spanish fleet on the South American coast, having wreaked their revenge upon the Chilians by the bombardment of the defenceless city of Valparaiso, proceeded to Callao, the principal port of Peru. Here they met with unexpected resistance from a number of shore batteries, and were repulsed with great loss, one or two of their ironclads being disabled by the Blakely artillery which defended the town, and Admiral Nunez himself wounded. What effect this severe loss has produced at Madrid is not yet reported, but we hope and doubt not that other reverses are in store for Spain, should she persist in her policy of ruthless destruction to spite a foe whom she cannot conquer in honourable warfare.

The speech delivered by Mr. Seward at Auburn gives reason to hope that the breach between the President and the American Congress is not irreparable, and that some basis of agreement may still be found for reconstructing the Union and bringing back the South without a surrender of Northern rights and negro claims. The United States Government have further departed from their inactive policy in respect to Fenianism by seizing a quantity of arms collected by the Brotherhood, and have received the thanks of Sir Henry Bruce for their efficient co-operation in frustrating the designs of the conspirators. President Johnson has nothing to fear from American opinion in dealing with the Fenians, whose lawless proceedings and empty boasts have disgusted the whole nation.

THE CAVING IN OF THE CAVE.

MONDAY night was a remarkable night in the history of the Reform struggle—one which, whatever may come hereafter, will be historical. The Whig element of the Opposition then collapsed—the cave of the Adullamites somewhat suddenly caved in. The object of that small, and we may say rebellious, section of the Liberal party, in their flank assaults upon the Ministerial measure, was to scare the Government, to make them abandon their Bills, but not to drive them out of office for the benefit of their casual allies—the Tories. They have brought various devices to bear upon the firmness and fidelity of the Liberal leader. They have stolen the key of his position, and made a present of it to his foes. They have set up false flags—they have invented "current rumours"—they have dugged pitfalls and covered them over with delusive professions. They have even enticed the Government upon impracticable ground, and all this they have done in the expectation that Reform might be surrendered without necessitating the ultimate retreat from power of a Liberal Administration. They ascertained late last week that their clever but unscrupulous line of tactics would not succeed—that they could not sever the Government from its honour, nor compel it to desert the policy to which it had pledged its own existence. There is a Continental war at hand. There are graver issues at stake than the possible fate of a moderate measure of Parliamentary Reform. The game which was early initiated, and which has been rashly and almost desperately played, is seen to have its dangers ahead, and to involve tremendous responsibilities. Either the Adullamites must give way, or the Tories must be pushed into office. There was no alternative, for her Majesty's Ministers would abide by their pledge, and stand or fall by the substance of their Reform proposals. The faction got alarmed at the consequences of persisting in their own too clever counter-project. So, on Monday the *dénouement* came. A last trial was made to shake the determination of the Government before resuming the adjourned debate, but it resulted in failure. Very soon, the struggle took an entirely new turn. Earl Grosvenor counselled Captain Hayter to withdraw his amendment, which advice, at the close of the discussion, the gallant member declared his intention of taking. When the question was put, the Opposition swarmed out of the House to avoid a division in which they were sure of being worsted. The House went into Committee. The preamble of the Bill, as usual, was postponed, and the Chairman ordered to report progress, after a scene of confusion and hurry-scurry that will long be remembered.

Earl Grosvenor tendered his advice to the hon. and gallant member for Wells, on the ground that, although in his opinion the Suffrage Bill was a bad one, and the Seats Bill an unsatisfactory measure, he thought it of the last importance to retain the Government in office in the present crisis of European and monetary affairs. Captain Hayter accepted it on the pretext that the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had conceded his main object; and both professed to believe that the measure must be withdrawn a little later on in the Session. Undoubtedly, Mr. Gladstone announced that the

Ministerial proposition of curtailing the small borough representation by grouping and transferring the seats gained by this process to great and growing communities, was not considered a vital principle of the scheme, supposing the object could be secured by another method, and that great freedom would be allowed in arranging the details of redistribution. But he gave no intimation that he contemplated any withdrawal of the measure. The whole tone of his speech—we may add, the general tone of the debate, discountenanced the expectation. Government have evidently made up their minds to press on until they have been outvoted on an essential element of their scheme, in which case they will resign, but they will not allow themselves to be manoeuvred off the ground by stratagems. They have wisely resolved upon casting the responsibility of rejecting Reform upon the House of Commons. They will test the professions of the House by forcing divisions on substantial and perfectly intelligible issues. The 7/-franchise for boroughs and the 14/-franchise for counties will furnish them with such tests, and the division lists on those clauses will render evident to the country who are the real as distinguished from the merely nominal friends of a broader representation of the people. Defeat on these or kindred points will be accepted, we do not doubt, as defeat of the measure, and the Government, true to their word, will in the event of it, quit their official position. But they will not be worried into doing that which their opponents will not brave the responsibility of compelling them to do.

It seems not unlikely now that the first intentions of her Majesty's Ministers will have to be acted upon—that the Franchise Bill will be carried through, and that the complementary elements of Reform, such as a redistribution of seats, a readjustment of borough boundaries, and provisions for the suppression of corrupt practices at elections, will have to be postponed until next Session. Technically, we imagine, there is nothing to prevent this arrangement, and should the Government secure a moderate majority in favour of the enfranchising clauses, former motives for overlaying the measure will have been much weakened. If they should succeed in getting thus much of the entire plan through Committee, it will lie within their choice, we imagine, to give up the remainder of it for the present Session, and take up their last decisive division on the third reading of the Bill. They are not pledged to fuse the two measures into one. They yielded that point with a view to conciliation, but to very little purpose. The Committee has been instructed to amalgamate the two measures, but we are not aware that the House has disabled itself from practically setting that instruction aside. There will, no doubt, be one or two trials of strength in Committee—but if each of them should result favourably for the Government, there will probably be an understanding between the parties as to the course to be thereafter pursued. These are conjectures merely, and it may appear to many of our readers that they are based upon extremely uncertain data. We confess it—but we cannot resign the idea we have again and again expressed, that Ministers are masters of the situation, and if they abide steadfastly by their determination, the Conservatives will hesitate to throw them out.

On the whole, the prospect seems to us less threatening than it was. No one, of course, can pretend to foresee, with anything like distinctness, what a day will produce—but it is something gained to have destroyed the position of the small, but influential, band of malcontent Liberals. The Tories cannot of themselves prevent the passing of a Reform Bill, at least through the House of Commons. They cannot, unaided, do much even to obstruct its progress. The real force and danger of the opposition has come from the Liberal side of the House, and if a dozen members are detached from the Adullamites, the cave, as Mr. Bernal Osborne wittily remarked, may be said to have shrunk to the dimensions of a grotto. Be the end, however, what it may, it is some satisfaction to observe that the style of statesmanship—if such an application of the word be not a desecration of it—and the tone of political sentiment, exhibited by Mr. Lowe, and echoed by the *Times*, have been fairly held up with scorn and detestation to the country. The right hon. member for Calne will assuredly take his place, as Mr. Disraeli has done. His splendid abilities will prevent him from sinking into contempt, but will not avail to float his principles, nor to set on high his standards of judgment. Ithuriel's spear has touched him, and he stands revealed to the moral sense of his countrymen. The days, thank God, are passed, for awhile at least, when intellectual power, employed to no high end, and with no earnestness of purpose, can overhear the true and better instincts of our nature. No man has done more than he in the late debates to debase with sparkling speech and flattering insinuations, the middle classes in this kingdom—none, to gratify what Mr. Osborne rightly characterised as the growing "flunkeyism" of the House of Commons. He has had his reward. He has found his position. His influence, even for mischief, is well-nigh gone.

We earnestly trust that the conscience of society is being gradually resuscitated, and, under the guidance of earnest men, we begin to hope that it will shake itself clear of the stupor which material prosperity, and constant laudation of its virtues, have of late years superinduced. We see signs of an awakening—may they be true interpreters of an approaching reality!

ABANDONMENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

WITH deep regret, but with no surprise, we have to record the fact that the projected Conference of the great Powers of Europe, with a view to prevent the outbreak of war, has been given up. The Government of France has communicated to the Government of her Majesty that Austria has accompanied her consent to enter the Conference with such reservations as to the subjects to be discussed as would render any attempts to compose existing differences by means of negotiation utterly futile. The information having been forwarded by telegraph, the nature and extent of those reservations can only be guessed at. But there seems no good reason for supposing that the view taken of them by the French Government is an exaggerated one, or that the Emperor Napoleon has a secret object in breaking off his efforts to hold a Conference at Paris, and so throwing the discredit of the failure upon the Government at Vienna. Of course, the diplomatic despatch in which Austria has expressed her reservations will very soon see the light, and nothing could be gained by misrepresenting their real extent or bearing.

The European crisis, then, reverts to what it was previously to this fruitless attempt to bring the differing Powers to a definite statement of their grievances, and to discover some ground and terms of peaceful settlement. The neutral Powers, France, Russia, and England, no longer stand between the probable belligerents, who are left to pursue their own course in disposing of the causes of their quarrel. It does not seem likely, therefore, that war can be averted. In truth, it is more probable that the calamity is close upon the threshold. Austria has assumed the responsibility of throwing away the only remaining chance of peace, but Prussia is likely enough to strike the first blow. The last-named Power, whose lawless ambition brought about the perilous crisis, is said to have informed Austria that in consequence of her having referred the Holstein question to the Federal Diet, the Gastein Convention has ceased to have force, and that Prussian troops will forthwith enter Holstein. The Austrian brigade now occupying that province has consequently received orders to concentrate at Altona, with the evident purpose of retreating, if necessary, through Hanover and Hesse. An immediate collision may perhaps be avoided—but there is too much reason to fear that Austria will interpret the occupation of Holstein by Prussian troops as an act of war, and will lose no time in striking a heavy blow in some other quarter.

The conduct of Austria in frustrating the assembling of the projected Conference is justly criticised with some severity. Perhaps we have not yet heard all that she can urge in her own justification, but she has undoubtedly placed herself in a position which will ensure political condemnation. That she had made up her mind not to relax her hold upon Venetia, nor allow Prussia to appropriate Holstein, save in exchange for territorial compensations which she had no chance of obtaining, was well known even when the proposal of a Conference was first seriously mooted. She was hardly expected to give way on these points under any but very strong inducements, and her own determination having been fixed, she might well have afforded to listen to what other Powers had to offer to her consideration, even although she felt herself bound to reject their suggestions. She had a show of right in her favour, especially in her quarrel with Prussia. She could plead treaties as the bases of her right to Venetia. She had received great provocations, and although she could not hold up her hands before the neutral Powers and take credit to herself that they were clean, she might still have placed her cause in a tolerably fair moral position, as compared with that of the other intending belligerents. Probably, she has an inward consciousness that there underlies her political position a stratum of weakness, and she durst not trust herself to argue where she doubted lest judgment would go against her. She has refused discussion, and has thereby gratuitously given a political triumph to her antagonists. But Austrian statesmen never were used to set a high value on logical superiority. Their reliance has evermore been on the amount of organised physical force at their command. Three quarters of a million of men, well-equipped, armed and drilled, underskilled officers, headed by a renowned military chieftain, and a burning hatred of Prussia who has always striven to take advantage of her distresses, furnish Austria with motives too powerful for her to resist—and pride and obstinacy, the besetting sins of the House of Hapsburg, are better pleased to flourish the

sword against all comers, than to listen to counsels which imply as well as inflict supposed humiliation.

Prussia, it appears probable, blustering as her behaviour has been, will have quite as much reason to rue the hostilities she has provoked, as any of the belligerents. The cause which Count Bismarck resolved to further by "blood and steel" will hardly gain by that severe regimen, but Prussia will almost certainly lose more in the coming conflict than that cause was worth. Her people, whatever may be the case with her Government, recoil with dismay from the prospect before them, and, unless she gains early and decided advantage in the anticipated campaign, the minor States of Germany whom she has bullied and would fain despoil, will soon sheer off from their neutrality and side with Austria. The only assurance she can have of escaping severest punishment, if assurance she have any, must be derived from a belief, well or ill founded, that France will before long redress the balance of numerical inferiority, and join the ranks of the belligerents to coerce Austria into terms. What if this hope should fail her? What if Bismarck has interpreted Imperial winks and nods too sanguinely? What if Napoleon, feeling the pulse of his own subjects, comes to the conclusion that war would be an unsafe game for the perpetuation of his dynasty? There are evidently wheels within wheels—and the only thing which can be foreseen with certainty is that a war thus needlessly commenced, and thus unjustifiable in its objects and even pretexts, will bring permanent advantage to none who engage in it—and is far more likely to end in revolution than in the fulfilment of dynastic aspirations.

NOTES OF THE SESSION.

THE tactics which enabled the Opposition to snatch a victory from the Government at the beginning of last week on Sir R. Knightley's motion for foisting the question of bribery and corruption into the Government Reform measure, were further developed on Wednesday. On that day Mr. Clay's Bill for conferring the elective franchise on all who can pass a scholastic examination was debated from twelve o'clock till nearly six. One Conservative member after another, such as Lord Robert Montagu, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Hope, Mr. Whiteside, Lord Cranbourne, and Sir Stafford Northcote, rose to express his anxiety to support the measure, partly perhaps because the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved its rejection. They did not, indeed, give in an unreserved adhesion to its provisions, but accepted it as a corrective, so that, as Lord Cranbourne said, if they were bound to the principle of numbers, as recognised by the Government measure, they might at least have the assurance that those admitted were probably qualified to exercise the trust. There was a great muster of Conservative members, who hoped to inflict another defeat on the Government; and would have done so, but that that the Bill was talked out. When half-past five o'clock arrived there was a great clamour for a division, but Mr. Montague Chambers occupied the next quarter of an hour, and when the clock pointed to a quarter to six the debate was adjourned by the rules of the House, and the plotters were defeated.

The debate was remarkable for Mr. Gladstone's capital illustration of the absurdity of the educational test. He asked how many members of that House could divide 1,330*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* by 2*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, to which Lord Robert Montague naively replied that the sum could not be done. Mr. Bright also ably vindicated his claim to be regarded as a Conservative reformer, having always abjured fancy franchises as new-fangled propositions, and advocated household suffrage as being in harmony with the constitution and practice of the country. The Attorney-General could only characterise the course pursued by the Opposition as "an organised hypocrisy." Though suspected of rather Conservative leanings, he not only generously defended the sincerity of Mr. Bright's views, but gave in his adhesion to household suffrage as a safe and desirable limit, and one to which, on Conservative principles, he should be well pleased to advance now. An attempt to draw out Mr. Mill in support of Mr. Clay's Bill did not succeed—the member for Westminster, as he afterwards explained, being unwilling to be used as a catspaw, and disapproving of the application of educational tests, which might regulate universal suffrage, to a 7*l.* limit, which required no such restriction.

The adjourned debate on Captain Hayter's amendment condemnatory of the Redistribution Bill was resumed on Thursday. Mr. Goschen, in defending that measure, pointed out that a motion which stigmatised the Bill as inconvenient, inequitable, and immature, would be fatal to the Government scheme. Sir John Pakington proposed that the whole subject should be handed over to a Royal Commission, and Mr. Mill humorously justified his allegation that the Conservatives were the stupidest party, on the ground that stupid persons always gravitated to the Conservatives, which insured their always being an extremely powerful party. When the even-

ing was sufficiently advanced, Mr. Lowe rose, to the clamorous delight of the Opposition. He fired off a speech which, as to argument, was a reproduction of his former exaggerated views, illustrated anew by brilliant metaphors and ready wit. His statement of the frightful and increasing cost of elections was made use of, not as a reason for infusing new blood into Constitution, but as a warning against "a plutocracy working on a democracy." The whole scheme of the Government was "the mere idolatry of numbers"; the grouping plan a simple plan for transforming small boroughs into expensive constituencies; the honour of the Government a thing only to be jeered at—"a mere scutcheon," as Falstaff said. To Parliament was committed "the noble and sacred future of free and self-determined government all over the world," and they were about committing parricide "upon the life and soul of this great nation." But Mr. Lowe did not propose that this monstrous measure should be kicked out of the House, but only advised delay! All his spectres of evil, and fervid anticipations of ruin, anarchy, democracy, and destruction—what do they mean? quietly asked Sir Roundell Palmer. Simply to stand on things as they are, because they are, and not for any particular reason. Mr. Lowe did not pretend that the ten-pound franchise rested on any principle capable even of explanation, but all he said was, "Move an inch and you are lost; you are on the high road to ruin." But though the whole drift of the right hon. gentleman's speech was in favour of finality, the Attorney-General showed that all parties were committed to Reform, which must and would be settled, and could not be settled without a considerable extension of the suffrage. Mr. Lowe blew a very brilliant bubble of rhetoric, which a prick from Sir Roundell Palmer dissolved into nothingness.

The debate on Friday was preceded by a stormy and tumultuous scene, arising out of Mr. Whalley's persistent efforts to move for a Select Committee of inquiry into Fenianism. Inarticulate cries failing during a whole hour to subdue the dreary speaker, an hon. member suddenly moved in a very crowded assemblage that the House be counted. This daring artifice succeeded. There was an immediate rush to the door, but the interposition of the Speaker not hitherto warranted, induced Mr. Whalley to desist, and withdraw his motion. It was clear that the Reform debate which followed was needless for any practical purpose. Mr. Disraeli did not see his way to an immediate division, still less to office, but he saw an advantage in wasting another day. Friday's discussion was dull and unreal, and Sir Hugh Cairns' damaging attack on the Redistribution Bill, and the Lord Advocate's sober defence of the Government scheme, failed to impart interest to the debate. Platoons of members rose whenever a speaker sat down, and amongst those who succeeded in catching the Speaker's eye were Mr. Martin (Newport), and Mr. Holden (Knarborough), who both patriotically announced that they should support the Government Bill, though their boroughs were doomed by it. The secret fears of the Adullamite leaders at length found expression in the unbecoming inquiry put by Lord Elcho, whether the Government would withdraw their measure if Captain Hayter's amendment should be rejected, which only drew from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a frigid and disdainful reply.

On Monday the House met again, with the full conviction that the combination against the Reform Bill had failed, which was ripened into certainty when Lord Grosvenor rose to announce that, while still opposed to the Ministerial scheme of Reform, he would be no party, in the present critical state of Europe, to any vote which would displace the present Government, and lose the services of the Earl of Clarendon as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The good sense with which Mr. Osborne seasons his pleasantries was never more usefully exhibited, and Mr. Coleridge courageously, and with a severity quite unusual to him, denounced the cynical materialism underlying Mr. Lowe's social and political theories as simply "detestable." It was near midnight when Mr. Gladstone rose to review the debate, and state the intentions of the Government in an eminently conciliatory speech. He contemptuously dismissed Mr. Lowe with the remark that his criticism was too inflamed and exaggerated to be made the basis of grave argument, and showed how the Government had studiously consulted the feeling of the House rather than break with the majority on the subject of Reform. Not a single objection, he maintained, had been made which went to the root of the Bill, and which could not be dealt with in Committee. Such points as the leasehold county suffrage, the principle of grouping, and the omission to enfranchise more new constituencies—the last being perhaps most open to criticism—were by no means vital to the Bill, and could be discussed in Committee. If the opponents of the Bill would be frank, they would find the Government conciliatory. He protested indignantly against the indirect efforts to defeat the Bill, which were a violation of Lord Derby's pledge that it should receive fair play. A lengthened speech from Mr. Disraeli, from which his accustomed fire was absent, ended in the suggestion

that the Government scheme should be withdrawn in order that their views should be matured, and in an angry attack on Lord Clarendon.

The most novel part of the day's or night's sitting was yet to come. It is thus described in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"Captain Hayter, professing to be satisfied with the concession of the Government to regard grouping as not part of the principle of the Bill, begged to withdraw his amendment; and Lord Elcho, as an 'aboriginal Adullamite,' protested against any division under such circumstances. The independent members, sitting below the gangway, clamoured loudly against the amendment being withdrawn. The Speaker accordingly put the question to the House, declaring that the Ayes (those who desired that the House should go into Committee) had it. This was challenged by several voices from the lower division on the Liberal side; and a division seeming inevitable, the Conservatives began to quit the House *en masse*. In the course of a few minutes only a small sprinkling of members was left on that side of the House. Lord Elcho, Mr. Horsman, Mr. Lowe, and a number of Liberal members also joined the retreating party, amid ironical cheers and sounds closely resembling hooting from the excited Radicals. The time-glass on the table had been turned, according to the usual rule, as soon as the division had been called for; but it might have been turned several times in the interval before the compact mass of departing members had escaped into the lobby, so that the Serjeant-at-Arms could lock the doors. Upon the question being once more put, there was scarcely any one to cry 'No,' the Ayes being left masters of the situation. Eager, however, to get their triumph recorded in the division lists, one or two members near Mr. Bright tried to personate the absent or silent Opposition by shouting 'No,' in the hope of forcing a division. It was not until the Speaker had repeatedly proclaimed that 'The Ayes have it,' that the noisy disputants of this obvious fact were reduced to silence by the persuasion of their wiser friends. The amendment was then declared to be negatived without a division. The doors having been unlocked, the Opposition and Adullamite members began to return. The pressure of the throng pushing in from the lobby outside caused a block in the entrance, where members were tightly squeezed together so that they could move neither one way nor the other. Amidst much noise and confusion the Speaker quitted his throne, the mace was put under the table, and Mr. Dodson took his modest chair beside the clerks. It was now close upon two o'clock, and at such an hour it was of course out of the question to go into Committee except as a matter of form. Mr. Gladstone therefore moved that progress be reported, but as he just half rose from his seat to do so, and spoke in a conversational tone to the chairman, some of the Liberal members imagined that the proposal came from the enemy, and shouted 'No' lustily against it, in their bewildered excitement refusing all explanations, and insisting on a division. So the doors were again locked, and this time a division really did take place—one of the most curious on record. There were 403 votes for the motion—Conservatives and Ministerialists having gone together into the same lobby—and only two votes on the other side. The minority consisted of Mr. Colville and Mr. Whalley, with Mr. Monk and Mr. Hadfield as tellers. The progress of the Bill in Committee was then adjourned till Thursday."

GOING TO PICTURE-GALLERIES.

How easy it is to abuse public exhibitions! They are tedious—they are far too numerous—there is a terrible falling off in their quality! A man is supposed to need very strong reasons indeed to justify him in quarrelling with his bread-and-butter, and the practice of being too critical on the merits of his cake, is at least as open to objection. Good pictures, are to many of us, a creature far "too bright and good, for human nature's daily food." To look at pictures of any sort, indeed, is almost like the revival of a lost sense, or the resurrection of a suspended faculty. We get too little of the luxury, to feel at all inclined to be saucy or exacting over it. A tour through the rooms of the Royal Academy is to many a humble individual, what the hamper from home is to a boarding-school boy—the more highly esteemed because not coming too often. To most persons, we suppose, who are not picture-dealers, or artists, or critics by profession, any considerable collection of paintings, is attractive principally as a source of enjoyment. The enjoyment may be of very different kinds to different classes of spectators, and it may or may not come up to expectation, but people who are willing to be pleased, are seldom altogether disappointed. Even those who come to be looked at, and to look at one another, or expressly to pick up materials for conversation, might be engaged in these pursuits in a far less satisfactory manner, or in far less innocent situations. In the minds

of the majority of visitors, the pictures themselves, it may fairly be assumed, do afford a real motive for the visit, though but one among others. Here are people, for example, who are either lovers, or on the delicious brink of that relation, and who cannot find too many occasions for being in each other's company. Yonder are two country ministers from distant parts of England, to whom one particular corner has answered the same purpose of a rendezvous, as the crystal fountain used to do at the Great Exhibition. The acquaintances of some rising artist, eager to see how his first successful work is hung, and to hear any verdict on it which the bystanders may let fall; ladies of mature age, and obviously sequestered habits, to whom such a public entertainment as this, is apparently a piece of great annual dissipation; a knot of young sisters, keeping very close together, whose sad faces, even more than their mourning, tell of the current of deep feeling which underlies their intelligent, unaffected interest in the occupation of the hour: these are a few samples of varied, and yet on the whole agreeable, sometimes delightful experience, your glimpses of which would alone compensate you for the inconvenience of the crowding and the heat, the small miseries of being tripped by ladies' trains, or disturbed by irrelevant and gratuitously loud conversation. But unless you are extremely disinterested, or sublimely philosophical, you will hardly be absorbed altogether in sympathising with your neighbours, or in studying them. Whatever may happen to be its quality, the banquet for the eye which is spread over the walls, is prepared for you as well as for them. Have you not paid one shilling for a ticket, and another for a catalogue? Why not take your money's worth, and perhaps a little more? Here are both present satisfactions for you, and seeds of joy for the future. Already it is likely there are "art-treasures" enough in your memory, to make you very willing to enlarge that collection. As a poet, mindful of the winter and the quickly-falling leaves, embalms in his song "for after-treats, the essences of summer-sweets," so you would fain copy out into your mind, one scene after another which enchants you here, with its magic of colour and of light. Why should Linnell flood that little piece of wall in the North Room with autumnal purple and gold, or Hook fill those few square inches of canvas with breezy odours of the sea, and your imagination remain empty and poor as before? You will gather up, at least a few of the crumbs which fall from these rich men's tables. Some of the secrets which they have unlocked to you here for an hour or two, shall, if such a thing may be, rise happily before you, when many months have passed away, in your far-off study, or your dingy office, or through all the fog and smoke of your northern manufacturing town. Meanwhile, you are at a loss, which pictures thoughtfully to examine, and which simply to pass by. You feel as if you were exploring some interminable plantation, where one "cannot see the wood for the trees." Your present perplexity of riches, almost reconciles you to the extreme slenderness of your art-resources at home. You are dazed and bewildered, with the multitudinous succession of portraits and landscapes, scenes from history, and scenes from the literature of fiction. The susceptibility of some powers of the mind to being jaded and overtaken, which you experience at such a time,—the fatigableness of the imagination, in other words, is admirably expounded in the third volume of "Modern Painters," where you are told how if the imagination (instead of being kept too long on the stretch, as had happened on one occasion) "had only been laid down on the grass among simple things, and left quiet for a little while, it would have come to itself gradually, recovered its strength and colour, and soon been fit for work again." The practical conclusion at which he arrived upon making this discovery (it was made one day "on the winding road from Sallenche, sloping up the hills towards St. Gervais") Mr. Ruskin felicitously states as follows:—"Whereupon associating myself fraternally with some ants who were deeply interested in the conveyance of some small sticks over the road, and rather, as I think they generally are, in too great a hurry about it, I returned home in a little while with great contentment, thinking how well it was ordered that as Mont Blanc and his pine forests could not be everywhere, nor all the world come to see them, the human mind on the whole should enjoy itself most surely in an ant-like manner, and be happy and busy with the bits of stick and grains of crystal that fall in the way to be handled in daily duty."

The galleries of Trafalgar-square and Pall Mall are something very different from Mont Blanc, but from the one as well as from the other, you may go

away feeling more than ever the immense mistake of attempting either to see more, or to do more than enough. You have just been provoked, perhaps, to deliver your mind strongly on the subject of shallow, hurried, unartistic performances, or poor conventional prettiness, when you find yourself face to face with some picture which impresses you first with its astonishing beauty and power, and secondly with its marked conscientiousness. There are in it no signs of painful, forced elaboration, but many of ripe, well-considered thought, and long, patient application. Every detail is subordinated to the dominant expression and supreme aim of the picture, and at the same time every joist and panel, every dog's-eared ledger or bit of faded ribbon, is exactly and thoroughly rendered. You begin to slide imperceptibly out of your attitude as a critic, or you take your faculty of inspecting and analysing, and turn it right round upon yourself. Whether your tasks lie more in the way of handling bits of straw, or building up grains of crystal, have you, like this artist, tried, and tried, and tried again, to achieve proficiency? Is your diligence as painstaking as his, in that which is least, and like his, greater in proportion, to be faithful in much? When were your colours as finely and thoroughly mixed? How many of your conceptions have been brooded over as long, till they ran into a unity as exquisite, coming out as sharp and finished from the mould? Some pictures instruct while they pain you in this way, by humiliating comparisons with work to which you have taken less time, or done less justice. Others pain you, because you are quite unable to devote enough time to their own meaning and worth. Many of the works which interest you most deeply, you would probably never see unless they appeared at a public exhibition; and yet it is a disadvantage both to them and to you, that you make their acquaintance only in that way. There is something about them, which seems almost to shrink from the crowd. With the glare of many colours, and the noise of many voices on all sides, how can they confide their whole mind to you, or convey over the more delicate parts of their story? Happily, it is true that even to very good pictures, quietness and solitude are not in every instance equally necessary or congenial. From the school-boy assizes of Mr. C. Hunt, for example, in his "Judge and Jury," or from the hedge-school of Mr. Nicol, where the master and scholar are "Both Puzzled," you turn round instinctively to see other eyes twinkling with fun, and to catch other sounds of mirth as irrepressible and as audible as your own. It seems little better than an impertinence, for a smaller number of people than a score, or a dozen at the very least, to enjoy at one time a picture so big and so broad in its effects as the "Death of Nelson," by Mr. MacIise. Many other works, again, and some of far less mark, show to much greater advantage on the walls of the Academy, than they would if hung by themselves. They are painted to look well where they are. They fall in with that general impression of the spectacle as a whole, which, in a vague, undefined manner (till your weariness becomes oppressive), exhilarates you somewhat like a canter along green lanes and between dewy hedges in May, or like a careering ride on the Keswick and Windermere coach, through twenty miles of mountain, and lake, and valley, as lovely as any in England. But, at one or two points in that journey, you would like to dismount and linger an hour or two; or you would like to come back over the same ground another time, at leisure and on foot. You want to stretch yourself out at full length on the heather, and to row in and out among the lake water-lilies, and to climb those gigantic rocky stairs, where the landing-places are a thousand feet apart. So you feel a strong desire for space enough, and time enough, to learn all that some grand and solemn pictures have to say to you—to take in the clear, calm expression which they are, "of the power and intelligence of a companionable human soul." Sometimes, though rarely the opportunity is granted you. Who would not see "The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple," by itself, rather than side by side with a hundred other productions, and if possible quietly, instead of surrounded by a talkative crowd? The very date of first seeing that picture, is something worth remembering. We are presumptuous enough to hope not only that Mr. Holman Hunt's present studies will bear fruit as prosperously, but that he has already begun a new period of Christian art for the world. Certainly if it continue and develop, it will have to be emphatically new. Even if such a thing were to be wished, there cannot be a second renaissance. It would be impossible to reproduce either those limitations of the sixteenth century, which threw art into such extraordinary prominence as an organ of communication between mind and mind, or

the causes which stimulated the powers of the great representatives of art at that period, to their highest pitch of intensity. A world where the mighty energies of the press were as yet only feebly beginning to exert themselves, and where science still lay in the cradle, much inclined to sleep; a concentration of intellectual activity in one direction, which was due in part to the comparatively few avenues for that activity which were open, in part to the rivalry which royal and princely personages learned to feel in surrounding themselves with the best works in sculpture and in painting, and in part to the fact that a long series of men, remarkably gifted in these arts, arose to succeed and emulate each other; the returning tide, after it had ebbed so far and so long, of classical knowledge, with its magnificent models of beauty in literature and in art; the wave of religious revival which swept over Europe, affecting even those who were most unconscious of it, by the intellectual and moral stir which it made in men's minds;—these are not conditions which will ever repeat themselves. May there not be other and future conditions as favourable? Why should not the beginnings of what is noblest and best in the religious painting which exists, be stimulated to a yet higher ambition, by demands from the community at large, or from some part of it, dictated by feeling at once more pure, and just, and deep? Why should not a generation grow up, cultivated early and well, both generally, and in the conscience and imagination; conversant, in a loving reverential intimacy, with the great events of the Old Testament and the New, and alive to the grand universal relations, in which these stand to the destinies and hopes of mankind? Neither these nor any other circumstances, would avail without great creative genius; but let that Divine endowment at any time be added, and why should there not come out of such materials, works of which some future writer on art may speak, as Hazlitt does of his own first impressions of the Cartoons:—"Prophets and apostles stood before me as in a dream, and the Saviour of the Christian world with His attributes of faith and power; miracles were working on the walls; the hand of Raphael was there; and, as his pencil traced the lines, I saw Godlike spirits and lofty shapes descend and walk visibly the earth, but as if their thoughts still lifted them above it."

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

(Continued from page 457.)

EARL GROSVENOR rose to explain why he should give his vote in favour of the Government, instead of to the amendment of the member for Wells. Referring to the resolution he had moved on the Franchise Bill, he said that the object which he had then in view, whatever may have been the object of others, was attained by the fusion of the Franchise and Redistribution Bills; and the Government was now responsible for their future conduct. He did not think the Franchise Bill the best possible bill, while the Redistribution Bill was crude, undigested, and anomalous—(ironical cheers from the Opposition); and he did not understand why the Government had not followed the precedents of the bills of 1859 and 1860 in regard to the rearrangement of seats. Still he felt bound, if the amendment of Captain Hayter was pressed to a division, to vote against it; though he thought that it would be advisable that the amendment should not be pressed. If he voted for the amendment he might contribute to the defeat of the Government, against which he had no hostility, but in whose policy he had a general confidence.

When he reflected on the state of the affairs of Europe, and on the financial crisis, which had not yet subsided, and which, he was afraid, would not subside for some time, he held it to be of the greatest consequence that the Government should not resign office at the present time. Without in the least intending to reflect on the ability of gentlemen opposite, he hoped he might be permitted to say that he had great confidence in Lord Clarendon, who had conducted the foreign affairs of the country with great credit to himself and with great advantage to the nation. (Hear, hear.) He should be sorry to see him vacate office at the present time. (Hear, hear.) His own impression was that the chance of the bill passing that session was very remote indeed. (Hear, hear.) He would venture to appeal to his right hon. friend whether, as the feeling in the House and in the country—for the House was but a reflex of the opinion of the country—was against the measure of the Government, he would not defer to that feeling, and ward off that opposition and disaster which would be fatal to him and to the Government, if he did not postpone until a more favourable opportunity and after more mature investigation, legislation on this subject? (Hear, hear.)

MR. OSBORNE thought it always interesting to witness the reconciliation of friends. The quarrels of lovers were said to be the renewal of love. He congratulated Earl Grosvenor, who looked one way and rowed the other, on his return to his party, and consoled with the inhabitants of the cave, which might now be said to have shrunk to the dimensions of a grotto. (Laughter.) All acknowledged the need of Reform. The only question was, who was to construct

the measure. Reform was very much in the situation of Cinderella.

In previous sessions she was neglected and despised, but suddenly she puts on the guise of an heiress, and now the only quarrel between the two parties is, which is to measure her for the glass slipper. (Laughter.) But what is likely to occur? Why, by these various amendments and protracted discussions she seems likely to vanish in the midnight of August, and to go back to the dirty attics of Downing-street. (Laughter.) He did not think Ministers were to blame for that. They thought they had a majority of seventy Liberals panting for Reform. It was a delusion. They should rather have waited one session, and felt the pulse of the House before committing themselves to a Reform Bill. They were damaged by the extravagant zeal of friends like Mr. Bouverie—almost one of the family—who urged the Government not to offer a bit-by-bit Reform, but to produce a comprehensive, incompressible amalgamation. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Well, there they were. The Franchise Bill would be withdrawn when the weather got hot, and the only redistribution of seats they were likely to see was a new grouping of officials on the Treasury Bench. They all had a wonderful sympathy for the better class of artisans, but at the same time there was a wonderful agreement to shut them out from the franchise. He didn't believe in the Government statistics. In the borough he represented people were put down as working men who were publicans and sinners. (Great laughter.) They could not refuse considerable reduction in the franchise. The Lord-Advocate said that House was an embodiment of democracy. Why, there were 217 of its members directly connected with the aristocracy.

Talk of trades unions. Why, is not this House a trades union to a certain extent? Are there not 217 members who to all intents and purposes are a trades union? But it is said do they all vote on one side? No; like trades unions they differ in political statement. Mr. Sandford has written a history of the great families which hon. gentlemen would do well to read. He proves that less than 1,500 of the great families constitute the whole of the other House and one-third of this House, and yet in the face of all this, we have gentlemen talking of revolution, and of keeping the artisan class out. (Hear, hear.) That class has not its fair share of political power, and we are an aristocratic trades union to all intents and purposes. (Hear, hear.)

He advocated an extension of the franchise as a means of remedying such practical abuses as the Irish Church, the Irish land question, and the present profligate expenditure. Much as he admired Mr. Lowe, his theory of Government was an impeachment of the representative system of his country. (Hear, hear.) If the theory of the right hon. gentleman were to be carried out, they would have, instead of a constitution of the three estates of the realm, a paternal tyranny; and instead of a fresh and free democracy, a nation of political babies receiving spoon diet at the hands of an intellectual despot. (Hear, hear.) The Government was placed in a difficult position, because it was hardly to be expected that members for small boroughs would be their own political pall-bearers. There were advantages connected with small boroughs, but the grouping system he thought objectionable. The plan might answer in Scotland, though he didn't think it did, but it wouldn't answer in England. It was said by Mr. Lowe that Earl Russell had changed his opinions. Other people had done the same.

I have here a report of the speech of my right hon. friend the member for Calne, at Kidderminster, on the 10th of December, 1858. He had just been turned out of office, so he went down to Kidderminster, and I went with him. (Laughter.) The right hon. gentleman may exclaim, "Oh, that my adversary had written a book!" but I will say I wish he had not spoken this speech. (A laugh.) My right hon. friend observed:—

He found no fault with the Conservatives for having divested themselves of their own particular views, and for having adopted those of which the Liberals had formed a monopoly; he found fault, not with their conversion, but with the enthusiasm of their conversion. Sheridan, when he saw an Highland laird in an immoderate pair of breeches, remarked that his conversion had made him enthusiastic. (Loud laughter.) The Tories had not only accepted the principles of the Liberals, but had caricatured them, and in some respects made them ridiculous.

(Hear, hear.) Now, I will do my right hon. friend the justice to say that he has consistently opposed the reduction of the franchise—even when he had voted for it. (Laughter.) Here is what he says about small boroughs:—

I have no hesitation in saying that in accordance with the principle of the first Reform Bill I am willing to disfranchise those boroughs which, in violation of the liberties of the people, and the spirit of the entire constitution, have fallen into the hands of a single patron.

At this time he was at Kidderminster, mind. (Laughter.)

If there are any boroughs so small and insignificant—and I have many such in my eye—(Hear, hear)—I am perfectly willing that the privilege of returning members shall be withdrawn from them.

(Cheers.) The right hon. gentleman now says that the counties need no reform; but at Kidderminster his language was:—

The reform which is most wanted is in the county representation. The county franchise is eminently unfair, and for that reason I supported Mr. Locke King's motion for its reduction to 100. Nay, more, I have shown my earnestness and sincerity by advising the Colonial Office to lower the franchise in the Australian colonies to 100.

(Cheers.) Was there ever a Highlander that made his appearance in so big a pair of breeches. (Laughter.)

Well, he thought the House would do better to take half a Reform Bill than to have none at all, but he hoped the Government would not descend to the meanness of relegating the subject to a Royal Commission. (Hear, hear.) The Opposition would be wise to accept reform while a moderate and small measure was possible. ("Oh, oh," and cheers.)

By hanging up the question you will raise a spirit you little dream of, and bring upon you household suffrage. To the Government I say, be wise in time.

Do not adopt the advice of my right hon. friend the member for Kilmarnock; but if you go into committee let me beg of you to maintain one thing—do not give up the 71 franchise. That is the principle of this bill—maintain that, and upon any other point I am ready to meet you in a fair spirit. (Cheers.)

MR. ADDERLEY commented on the strange proceeding of Earl Grosvenor in voting for bills, one of which he had characterised as indefensible and the other as confused and intolerable. If it was the case that the Redistribution Bill was to be withdrawn, it was useless to continue to discuss it.

The debate was continued by Mr. Grenfell, Lord R. Montagu, Mr. Pim (who returned to the support of the Government), Mr. Walrond, Mr. Wyld, Mr. Mitford, Mr. Danby Seymour, and Sir T. Bateson. The latter attacked the Government for "dodging" the grouping, and predicting that the result of the bill, if carried, would be to extinguish the moderate Whigs and to seat Mr. Bright on the Treasury Bench.

MR. COLERIDGE, fearing lest the country should come to the opinion that they were trying to strangle the bill, exhorted the House to go into committee by such a majority as would enable the Government to retain office with dignity, and to pass at least the important portions of the bill this session. The rest of Mr. Coleridge's speech consisted of a powerful criticism on Mr. Lowe and his recent speeches.

It would be well, he thought, if those great abilities which were so constantly before the House, and the exercise of which afforded them so much delight and gratification, were employed in the inculcation of principles, politically speaking, of a less utterly detestable character. ("Oh, oh!" and cheers.) He had not the slightest intention of saying that they were detestable because they were Tory principles. He could respect, he could admire, and he could appreciate Tory principles. Such opinions were not, to his mind, at all detestable. Respect for authority, veneration for the past, personal loyalty to the Sovereign, with other principles of a similar sort, were high and noble principles, in which, to some feeble extent, he hoped he could himself participate. Those principles, however, were not those entertained by the right hon. gentleman. The right hon. gentleman attacked democracy in the House because he thought its advent, unmixed, might work certain changes in the political and social relations of society, and possibly in the laws of property, while even if mixed it might tend to diminution in the temporal prosperity which the upper and middle classes enjoyed. But out of that House he went to other places and depreciated, with all the power of his eloquence, scholarship and cultivation, and called civil engineers, great men in their way, the heirs of all the ages, setting up before his hearers large bridges and electric telegraphs as the chief objects of human admiration. That sort of Conservatism for mere material wealth, and Liberalism so far merely as Liberalism tended to increase wealth, could not be regarded as either good Conservatism or good Liberalism. Such principles were not, and never had been, the principles of the great party opposite. He trusted that they never would be, and though, perhaps, his opinions upon the subject might have but little weight either with hon. gentlemen opposite or with the right hon. gentleman himself, he could not help expressing his grief that such miserable, hopeless, cynical materialism should be put forth as a serious ground for political action. (Cheers and "Oh, oh.") He could not express the horror with which his whole nature would recoil from a Government whose conduct was in the slightest degree guided or animated by such principles. He was not and never had been the advocate of unmixed democracy, though in all Free Governments there must be a large mixture of the democratic element; and even were he a strong advocate of democracy, he should not think for one moment of forcing his opinions upon a society of gentlemen to whom he knew them to be repulsive. He desired to say, however, that when the right hon. gentleman quoted without acknowledgment from De Tocqueville passages which condemned democracy, he did not quote passages which, though side by side, were equally emphatic in its praise. Certainly recent events had shown, in spite of what the right hon. gentleman had shown, that democracy could at least be as merciful in peace as it was terrible in war, and that it could be as remarkable for its respect of law and order as it had been resolute in its determination to maintain a magnificent empire undivided. Why had this horror about democracy been kept over their heads when the question was simply one of lowering the franchise and the redistribution of seats, and when nobody but the right hon. gentleman, as far as he could understand, pretended to say that they could stand with the borough franchise at 100, and the county franchise at 500. . . . But whether they had democracy or did not have it, there was this at all events to be considered,—in spite of the sarcasms of the right hon. gentleman, he could not help thinking that the honour of the great Liberal party and the honour of the Government had been pledged to bring forward a measure of this kind. It was very well for gentlemen to be smart on the point—to tell them that there was no contract, that the last Parliament was dead and had left no executors. The right hon. gentleman had quoted Hudibras and an American squib, and he also quoted Falstaff about honour. Now, if he were minded to know what honour meant, he would not go to Falstaff to inquire on the subject, no more than he would inquire what virtue was of Iago, who said it was "a fib"; but if he wanted to know what honour meant he would go to a high-spirited officer who once neglected his duty, and feeling that he had stained his honour, exclaimed, "I have lost the immortal part of myself, and all the rest is beastial." (Hear, hear.) That was his notion of the matter. No doubt it was a great loss to one not to be able to make a joke when a joke was desirable; but it was an equally unfortunate thing not to be able to be serious when seriousness was required. The characters of public men, the political consistency of a great party, the truth of political declarations made year after year and again and again under various circumstances, were not matters which could be settled by a joke. They were very serious things indeed. (Cheers.) Though he himself was entirely free from anything like a pledge on the subject of Reform, he could not help thinking that the honour of the Government was pledged to bring forward a measure of this sort, and that the honour of the Liberal party, and his

honour as one of that party, was pledged to support it. (Cheers.)

Mr. WHITESIDE remarked on what he termed the irrelevancy, feebleness, and unsoundness of the speech just delivered, and expressed a strong opinion that the debate was unreal, and that the Government were not sincere in prosecuting the bill. Lord Grosvenor's policy was a commiserating policy. (Hear, hear.) He would spare the Government in consequence of their patriotic and noble conduct in the business of Denmark and of the foreign policy which he eulogised. (Cheers.)

He is apprehensive that war may break out, although the Whigs are in office; he looks forward to the influence of the wise principles and the peaceful policy of the right hon. gentlemen, and he thinks the best thing the right hon. gentleman can do, and the thing he will do, is to preserve his place and abandon his bill. (Cheers.)

The noble earl had no doubt earned the gratitude of the Ministry, and he would earn the gratitude of his country by causing the abandonment of the worst reform bill ever laid before the House.

After some remarks from Mr. MARSH, pleading for delay and further consideration; and from Mr. A. EUSTON, who maintained that in South Lancashire, particularly in the new Eastern division proposed to be created, the county element would be entirely swamped by the 144 franchise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who rose amid cheers, replied to Mr. Whiteside that if all reality had been taken out of the debate, it was not the fault of the Government.

It is a little hard upon men who have been sitting here in that nervous condition which generally befalls those who believe they are concerned in a matter of life and death—it is a little hard to come and charge us with want of reality in the debate, when, in point of fact, that want of reality only depends upon the breakdown of certain combinations which appeared to be real and certain. (Loud cheers.)

To vindicate the Government from the charge of delay, he traced the history of the two bills from the beginning, contending that as the early part of the session had been occupied in disposing of necessary business such as the cattle plague, no time had been lost, and that in every step which they had taken the Government had been actuated by a disposition to conciliate and to meet the wishes of the House. They had, by the moderate demands of the Franchise Bill, endeavoured to anticipate the objections to a still lower franchise than that proposed entertained by some of their friends. As some suspicion had been hinted with regard to the distribution of seats, the Government felt it necessary to lay this measure before the House. Then came the demand for the amalgamation of the bills, and again this was conceded; and thus, as in all the other steps taken, the Government desired to conciliate the House. It was a discouraging circumstance that a majority of the House engrafted on the measures the subject of corrupt practices, contrary to all precedent, and in opposition to the distinctly expressed opinion of Lord Derby. Next, the Government had to meet the amendment of the member for Wells, which bore about it the marks of concert with the Opposition. He showed that in the Reform Bill of 1832, when Sir William Hayter was a member of the Government, Wells was altogether disfranchised. He did not complain of the recalcitrance of members for grouped boroughs, for it was their duty to carry out on their behalf that principle of advocacy which Lord Brougham had laid down, and which might even throw a country into confusion for the protection of a client. The principle of grouping was adopted in no spirit of hostility to small boroughs; but it might often operate to prevent total disfranchisement. As to the charge of precipitancy in the preparation of the Reform Bill, it was deliberately prepared by experienced constructors of such bills in a period of forty-five days. As regarded anomalies, the measures mitigated anomalies, just as the first Reform Bill did, but it did not create any. Referring to Mr. Lowe's speech, he did not see that it required special comment. ("Oh, oh," and cheers.) His arguments were gross exaggerations, and Mr. Gladstone must protest against one portion of Mr. Lowe's speech.

He spoke, I think, with marked emphasis of the truckle-bed of honour. I frankly own that it appears to me that the whole of that portion of my right hon. friend's speech was one gross and continued error, both of taste and judgment—"Hear, hear," and "oh, oh"—because in these matters we must look not only at the merits of the sermon, but at the individual character of the preacher; and I want to know what charge there is that is made against the Government upon this score that cannot be made against my right hon. friend. (Hear, hear.) In that truckle-bed there may be a bedfellow. Cheers and laughter.)

During the period when reform was asleep, Mr. Lowe was one of those who, if the honour of the Government was implicated, shared in the responsibility. As to the principle of the Redistribution Bill, which Mr. Lowe professed, by a freak of fancy, not to comprehend, it was patent in the propositions of its enactments. When the Minister rose in his place and said, they carry over forty-nine seats from the decaying, small, and secondary communities, and distributed those seats amongst the great counties, the great towns, and new communities of the country, in that single sentence he explained the principle of the bill. (Cheers.) It seemed as though Mr. Lowe were emulating that party which Mr. Mill had lately described. (Laughter, and cries of "Oh.") After pointing out other glaring inconsistencies in the speeches of Mr. Lowe, who contradicted himself, and did not think it at all necessary to make his speeches in harmony with his votes, or even with one another

(laughter)—Mr. Gladstone passed on to consider Mr. Disraeli's scheme. As to his defence of small boroughs, he disputed its accuracy, showing that they did not offer any particular facilities either to merchants, old Indians, or returned colonials, and pointed out that by his boundary scheme and his enfranchisement of new towns, he would take about 2,000,000 out of the county constituencies, and make them mere collections of landlords and tenants, adding that such a scheme never would be passed by any House of Commons. With regard to the opposition to the bill, he asserted that its grounds were not good in themselves; that presuming them to be good, they were not sufficient to prevent the House going into committee, and he complained of the form and terms of the motion. Not a single objection, he maintained, had been made which went to the root of the bill, and which could not be dealt with in committee, and after examining the objections to groups, founded on the distances and the want of identity in the towns selected, he reminded the House that the Government had at no time stated the principle of grouping to be vital to the bill. The addition to the Franchise Bill of the Seats Bill—in which the Government, placing themselves in the hands of the House, had acquiesced against their will—had undoubtedly added very greatly to the mass of details which had to be dealt with, and they admitted that a large portion of the redistribution scheme remained open for discussion.

It is the character of the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats that it gives rise to an infinite number of questions, but all those questions it will be our duty to hold ourselves free in a conciliatory spirit to discuss in committee—(laughter and "Oh")—and we will endeavour to settle them not upon the basis of foregone conclusions of our own, but upon the principle of general equity, and to the satisfaction of the House. ("Oh, oh.") I do not know what will be particularly satisfactory to the hon. gentleman who thus assails me in that peculiar manner, but I had better perhaps pass it by. (Hear, hear.)

The first object, in the opinion of the Government, was the enfranchisement of a large mass of our fellow-countrymen; and this subject they had hoped all parties would approach in a spirit of conciliation. He criticised severely the language and form of the amendment, and protested indignantly against this indirect mode of seeking to defeat the bill, which was a violation of Lord Derby's pledge that it should receive fair play.

Condemn the bill because it does reduce the borough franchise! (Cheers from the Ministerial benches.) You stated your objections to it in your speeches. My right honourable friend (Mr. Lowe) objected to it in his speech; the member for North Devon objected to it in his speech; the right hon. gentleman the member for Bucks objected to it in his speech. Let him embody his opinion in a motion—(cheers)—or if he does not choose to do that—for he is not bound to do so—let him then take the usual course, the known and established course of opposing the bill, and the country will know what he means. (Loud cheers.) But it is useless to fall back on those large, vague, and unmeaning words. (Hear, hear.) You may by such means succeed for the moment, but do not suppose that you can thus lay a solid foundation for the fortunes of yourselves and your friends. (Cheers.)

This bill was only the application of the principles of 1831.

The opponents of the Reform Bill of 1831, though I can now see they were wrong, had much to say for the course they pursued. They had to deal with a system the most complicated in the world. Its springs and movements were hardly traceable to the common or even philosophic eye. It was like some wonderful creation that had descended from above, of the utmost delicacy and conformation, and which you might well fear to touch lest by deranging its springs you should mar its effect. And so long had this state of things prevailed that even wise men, and even brave men, shrank from the responsibility of attempting such a task. How different is the other case. We have seen the risk of the experiment run. We have seen the dangers, if ever there were any, of enfranchisement. We have heard prophecies uttered with all solemnity and collapsing almost as soon as they were delivered. We have witnessed the happy and blessed fruit of that constitutional change. We have found ourselves launched on a career where everything before us is comparatively plain and open, and we have to deal—I will not say with the alteration, so much as the growth of circumstances—with the growth of numbers, with the growth of wealth, with the growth of intelligence, with the growth of loyalty to the throne, with the growth of confidence in the Parliament, with the growth of attachment and love amongst all classes of the community. (Cheers.) And our view is, that under these circumstances we say now again has the time arrived to apply, with circumspection, yet with firmness and decision, those principles from the operation of which we have reaped such blessed fruits; and it is in the prosecution of that work that we are confronted with the hostility that has met us in the various stages of this bill—hostility which may be formidable indeed, and I will not even now presume to predict whether it will or not achieve a momentary success, but with regard to which any triumph achieved will recoil with tenfold force upon the heads of those who have brought it about. (Laughter and cheers.) And to be the chief sufferers in such a cause as that we have in hand is, indeed, to be preferred to success achieved in any ordinary cause; for we are well convinced that in the discharge of our duty in redeeming our pledges we are consulting alike and at once the honour and dignity of this House, the stability of the throne on which her Majesty sits, the contentment and happiness of the people, and the strength and endurance of our institutions. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. DISRAELI, vindicating the Opposition from the charge of factious obstruction, pointed out that of the three motions by which the progress of the bill had been delayed, two had been made from the Ministerial benches, that the principles of two of them had

been accepted by the Government—Mr. Gladstone having just abandoned grouping—and the principle of the third (Sir R. Knightley's) had been accepted by Lord J. Russell at the last Reform Bill in 1860. Without going further into a defence of small boroughs, he repeated that they afforded to many valuable members a means of entering the House, and afforded some compensation for the inadequate representation of the counties. He calculated that 84 of these small borough seats might be said to be supplementary to the representation of the landed interest, and, added to the present number of county members, 162, they made the county members 246, and the borough members 250. Of these 84 seats, 42 were disfranchised by the bill. As to the charge of wishing to eliminate the urban elements from the counties, he pointed out that of the 11,500,000 of the county inhabitants, only 1,000,000 lived in the unenfranchised towns, so that there would still remain a population of 10,000,000 to be dealt with, of which only 2,000,000 were farmers and farmers' labourers. As the Government seemed entirely ignorant of these and other similar facts, he agreed with Lord Grosvenor that they ought to withdraw the bill, to afford themselves time for obtaining further information, and in commenting on Lord Grosvenor's chief reason for not supporting the amendments—confidence in Lord Clarendon—he criticised with great severity Lord Clarendon's conduct before and during the Crimean War and at the Conference of Paris. In conclusion, he said,—

I have hope that if the good sense of the House of Commons will allow the question to be adjourned until next session—"No, no," and cheers)—her Majesty's Government will before next session make themselves masters of the question (loud Opposition cheers)—that they will not believe that the landed interest consists only of farmers and farm-labourers; that they will recollect that they have to deal with a portion of the people of England, and will be prepared to come forward on a future occasion with a measure which will be more adequate to the case, and more calculated to give content and satisfaction to the people of this country. (Loud and long continued cheers.)

Captain HAYTER announced that as the object of his motion had been virtually conceded by the Government, and as there was little doubt now that the bill would be withdrawn, he should not persevere with his amendment.

Lord ELOHO, who had great difficulty in getting a hearing, speaking as an original Adullamite, approved Captain Hayter's course, thinking that under the circumstances, the House would be dividing on a false issue.

It is not because I am hostile to the Government that I am opposed to this bill; it is because I am opposed to legislation on so vital a question on incomplete information and untrustworthy data, and I therefore hope that the Government will see that the recommendation of my hon. friend is a wise one, that they should withdraw their bill—(loud cries of "No")—and that they will retreat, while there is yet time, from an impossible position.

The SPEAKER put the usual question, "Is it your pleasure that the motion be withdrawn?" to which there was a loud response of "No," and then proceeded to put the amendment, upon which the great mass of the Opposition trooped out of the House to avoid a division, amid the laughter and ironical cheering of the Ministerialists. Strangers were ordered to withdraw, and the doors were closed in the usual form; but on the SPEAKER putting the question a second time, the amendment was negatived without a dissentient voice. No opposition was offered to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, and the House went into committee on the bill amid loud and prolonged cheering.

The preamble having been postponed,

Mr. GLADSTONE moved that the chairman report progress, to which some enthusiastic members below the gangway cried "No," and continued to challenge Mr. Dodson's decision, "The ayes have it," so as to compel a division. This brought back the great bulk of the secession, and the reappearance of prominent members of it, such as Sir E. Lytton, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Mowbray, was the signal for renewed laughter and ironical cheering. The motion for reporting progress was carried by 408 to 2.

Mr. LOWE called the attention of the members of the House to the scene which had just taken place. He had left, being anxious to avoid a division, and on his return he was unable to get into the House. When he did enter, he found the House in committee, and that the preamble had been postponed. Was it right that such a precedent should be tolerated? Ought hon. members, without any fault of their own, to be actually prevented by physical violence from discharging their duty. ("Oh oh," and "Hear, hear.")

Mr. B. HOPE, in corroboration of the right hon. gentleman, said that when he himself tried to come back into the House he was prevented by such a rush as could only be seen at a theatre.

Mr. HADFIELD observed that what was now complained of was the fault of hon. members who ran away to avoid a division.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH said he had a very important amendment to move on going into committee. (Laughter.)

The SPEAKER said that with regard to what had been stated by the hon. member for Devizes, if there had been no disturbance in the House, and every hon. member had remained in his place, it would not have been competent for him to move his amendment under the circumstances.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE IMPENDING WAR IN EUROPE.

FAILURE OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

The proposed Paris Conference has come to naught in consequence of the reservations made by Austria. "The Austrian Cabinet," says the *Constitutionnel* of Monday, "accepts the Conference, but only on condition that all the Powers represented shall undertake to demand no modification of frontier and no territorial aggrandisement." A French note to Vienna is said to express regret that the reply of Austria "must be considered as a refusal to take part in the Conference, and therefore as frustrating the efforts for the preservation of peace." The *Constitutionnel* of yesterday says that "Europe had a right to expect other determinations from a great Conservative Power." *Le Pays* and *La France* charge Austria with "precipitating events" by the declaration made by that Power to the Federal Diet. According to another account, the hesitation of Austria to allow the Venetian question to be considered in Conference arose from the knowledge that the neutral Powers were not disposed to support the idea of giving her Silesia as a compensation.

AUSTRIA.

Preparations for war continue, and the patriotic expressions of public opinion are undiminished. Students can now enter the army or volunteer corps on certain favourable conditions, agreed to by the Government. The execution of the late decree for the levy of fresh troops will not be proceeded with at present, the requirements having already been fully met by the recent large enrolments of volunteers.

The fortification works upon the left bank of the Danube, near Vienna, are rapidly approaching completion. Eighty sappers and 16,000 labourers are engaged on the works.

Accounts from Prague report that the educational establishments are about to be closed in that city on account of the danger of war. The army headquarters are about to be transferred to Prague, where Field-Marshal Von Benedek will shortly inspect the troops.

The Vienna papers reiterate their assertion that an understanding exists between Austria and Russia, and that the latter Power would support at the Conference the maintenance of the Treaties of 1815. They even go so far as to declare that a formal alliance between the two empires is in preparation. Queen Olga of Wurtemberg, who recently visited Vienna, is said to have been the bearer of an autograph letter from the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor of Austria. The Czar advocates the rejection by Austria of all proposals referring to the cession of Venetia, the settlement of the Austro-Prussian dispute by the recognition of the Duke of Oldenburg's claims to the Schleswig-Holstein throne, and the re-establishment of the ancient friendly relations between the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburg.

The declaration made by the Austrian representative in the last sitting of the Federal Diet is joyfully received by all the Vienna press as a German deed, by which the political situation is placed in a clear light. Some journals declare that the Austrian declaration will hasten the outbreak of war, and that all hopes of peace being preserved by means of a conference must be abandoned. The Prince Archbishop of Brixen has addressed a pastoral to the clergy of his see, declaring the highest interests of the Catholic Church to be involved in the impending conflict.

An Imperial decree has been issued suspending for the present, on account of the dangers menacing the southern parts of the empire, the laws for the protections of personal liberty and inviolability of domicile in Venetia, the Istrian seaboard, Goritz and Gradiska, Southern Tyrol, and Dalmatia.

An Imperial decree has been published, ordering a forced loan of 12,000,000 florins in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom.

News from Warsaw states that a strong Russian corps of observation is being concentrated on the frontiers of Prussian Silesia and Galicia.

The Berlin correspondent reports as the newest and most important event of the day, the offer of the Sultan to conclude a formal alliance with the Kaiser in consequence of Italy having lately revived her former connection with the Christian chieftains of Montenegro and Herzegovina.

Whether Austria will accept the proposal it would be premature to determine, but as M. Petrowicz, the leading Minister of Montenegro, is at this moment staying at Florence to concert a common plan of action in the event of war, the Kaiser cannot be entirely insensible of the advantages of co-operating with the Sultan. Italy's scheme evidently is to rouse the Slavonian subjects of the Porte, and by infecting their Croatian brethren with a similar spirit of rebellion to pave the way for an invasion of Hungary. To the Kaiser, had he to fight Prussia and Italy at the same time, this device might prove more embarrassing than a well-sustained attack upon the Quadrilateral. It is but a few days ago that M. Deak, who has been always regarded as the most loyal man in Hungary, quietly told a deputation who had come to consult him on some question or other, "That the future of Hungary did not seem to depend so much upon the action of her Parliament as upon a fortunate accident." This is a most ambiguous, and, in so cautious a man as M. Deak, anything but an insignificant remark.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* writes,—

It is here believed that the peace will be broken by the Italians, who are greatly excited and eager for the coming fray. According to the Austrians, some of the positions now occupied by the Italian army are so unhealthy that it would be very dangerous to keep the troops in them for any length of time.

All the news from Venetia tends to prove that the inhabitants of that province will not remain passive in the event of a war between Austria and Italy.

The political ferment is alarmingly great, and, notwithstanding the vigilance of the Imperial authorities, very many young men manage to get across the frontiers into Italy. The emigration mania is so violent that boys of ten and twelve years clandestinely leave their homes and families, in order to offer their services to the Italian Government. Among the refugees are children of men who for a long series of years have been in the service of the Austrian Government.

PRUSSIA.

The semi-official *North German General Gazette* of the 2nd says:—

The Austrian declaration relative to the convocation of the Holstein Estates seems to be a direct provocation to war. The convocation of those Estates with the declared object of dissolving those ties of allegiance which, according to the Treaty of Vienna, unite the Duchy of Holstein to Prussia, is apparently a flagrant violation of the Treaty of Vienna and an attack upon the sovereign rights of Prussia, which she is bound to resist.

In accordance with the spirit of this article, Prussia, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, has informed Austria that in consequence of her having referred the Holstein question to the Bund the Gastein Convention becomes invalid, and Prussian troops will enter into Holstein. The Austrian brigade Kalik has received orders to retire to Altona.

Prussia has confidentially declared to the Government of Electoral Hesse that a war between Austria and Prussia would involve the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation. She further declared that she would respect the sovereignty of all those States which did not assume an anti-Prussian attitude.

General Govone has returned to Berlin to obtain, if possible, the King's signature to the Italian treaty. It is not known whether he has yet succeeded.

As if the prospect of war and its concomitants were not enough to depress a nation, the cholera has begun to show its treacherous head in two or three different points. The neighbourhoods now infected are near Chemnitz and Altenburg in Saxony, and near Eochternach on the Rhine. An *Augsburg Gazette* writer affirms that there exists at the present moment in Germany such germs of disease, that if war should break out it would inevitably lead, in consequence of the conglomeration of large masses of men, obliged to suffer from fatigue and insufficiency of food, to the most terrible epidemic of cholera ever witnessed.

THE FEDERAL DIET.

In its sitting on the 1st inst. the Diet accepted the invitation to the proposed conference, with the reservation that the questions of Schleswig-Holstein and Federal reform are matters of an essentially German character so long as they do not affect international relations. Baron von der Pfordten, the Bavarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, was thereupon elected to represent the Germanic Confederation.

The Austrian representative declared that his Government was ready to disarm as soon as security had been obtained that the preservation of peace should not again be endangered. He further stated that Austria had endeavoured in vain to come to an arrangement with Prussia for the settlement of the Schleswig-Holstein question in accordance with the rights of the Bund and of the Duchies, and therefore, she would now leave the matter in the hands of the Confederation, and empower the Governor of Holstein to convoke the estates of that duchy.

The Prussian representative made a similar declaration as regards disarmament, and announced that if the Diet should be unsuccessful in inducing Austria and Saxony to disarm, or should reject the Prussian proposals for Federal reform, Prussia would conclude that the Diet is not equal to its mission. The Prussian representative stated, in conclusion, that Prussia had never intended to decide the question of the Elbe Duchies by an appeal to arms.

The declaration of the Austrian representative relative to the question of the Duchies was referred to the Schleswig-Holstein committee, and considered as the introduction to a political execution against Prussia.

The Bavarian representative brought forward a motion that, in view of the present armaments of several members of the Confederation, it would be advisable, in order to avoid a conflict, that Prussia and Austria be invited to withdraw their troops from Rastatt, Mentz, and Frankfurt, or, at all events, that all Federal fortresses be declared neutral territory.

The reply of the Federal Diet to the invitation to a conference has been despatched from Frankfurt. It adopts the Austrian programme, and declares that the question of the Duchies and that of Federal reform are not within the competence of the neutral Powers. The reply also states that the Italian question is a matter in the solution of which the Germanic Confederation takes great interest.

ITALY.

The King has gone to Turin. Nearly everybody here (says a Turin letter) seems as certain of war as though it had actually begun. From the 15th to the 20th of June it is confidently predicted war will commence.

A royal decree orders the formation of twenty additional battalions of volunteers and two battalions of Bersaglieri. It is announced that the number of volunteers who have presented themselves for enrolment amount to 95,000.

The Italian army seems to be still advancing. A week ago it rested on the Oglio, but it has crossed that river, as also the river Melia, and is now en echelon on the Chiasso. Cialdini, with the 4th army

corps in Bologna, is in front of that part of Venetia which is outside of and to the right of the Quadrilateral, between Verona and Mantua. The rearguard for the present rests on the Adige and the Po.

Letters from Venetia assert that Austria has had plans prepared for causing an overflow of the Po and Adige, in order to prevent the entry of the Italian army into Venetia, and that some of the principal roads in the Tyrol have been mined.

The assertion that General Garibaldi has left Caprera for the coast of the Adriatic is without foundation. Communications received in London on Monday state that the General was still on the island, and had no immediate intention of leaving it.

A letter from Florence, in the *Daily News*, says:—

From every corner of the Mediterranean where Italians are settled and Italian is spoken, volunteers have flocked in to serve under the national standard, and Egypt, Dalmatia, and Istria vie with the peninsula in sending their contingents. So great and widely extended is the national enthusiasm, that it has even infected the Papal Dragoons, some fifty of whom presented themselves a few days back to the Italian authorities at Ancona, having escaped, fully equipped, across the frontier.

The *Times'* correspondent writes to a similar effect. He says:—

Young men of all classes consider it a disgrace to stay at home, and the daily-increasing enthusiasm more and more assumes the practical form of enlistment. Those who have served in the regular army, and retired from it, generally seek to resume their rank without pay. In Italy there are numbers of men of fortune and family who belong to the army only when there is a war, and whose object is action, not advancement. Lombardy affords many patriotic recruits. Trivulzio, Arconati, Litta, and other equally well-known names, are to be read on the roll of subaltern officers and even of private dragoons. At Milan the eagerness for the war is prodigious. One reads of merchants closing their offices and departing with their clerks to take service in the army or with Garibaldi. In Milan alone, three days ago, upwards of 3,300 volunteers had been enrolled. The Professor of Commercial Law at the Pavia University has abandoned his class and enlisted in the 4th Garibaldian Regiment, now forming at Varese. Nicotera was at Naples the other day, having already organised at Bari the 6th Regiment, which he commands, and which consists in great parts of Lombards and Venetians, and includes a few Poles and Hungarians.

Another account states that the Old Hungarian Legion was being revived—its headquarters being at Chieti, in the Abruzzi—

It now musters between 1,000 and 1,100 men, distributed in two small battalions, each of about 350 bayonets, 200 hussars, and upwards of 100 artillerymen. It has 12 rifled guns, six of them Whitworths, which Garibaldi at the end of the last war presented to General Turr. No doubt is entertained that recruits will pour in when the war commences, and desertion from the Hungarian regiment in the Austrian service is greatly reckoned upon. In the short campaign of 1859 about 5,000 Hungarians joined the allies, partly deserters and partly prisoners, who suffered themselves to be taken or gladly accepted the new service. Of the 25 Austrian soldiers lately mentioned as having come over in a body to the Italians, 20 were Hungarians and 5 Bohemians. It is intended to form a Hungarian brigade, and afterwards a division, to be commanded by Turr. There are already enough officers for the whole division only waiting for a summons. Moritz Perczel, one of the prominent figures in the Hungarian war of 1848-9, is at Turin. His two sons have entered the Hungarian Legion.

Though some 50,000 troops are still in the southern provinces, brigandage was reviving in Naples and in Rome the Bourbonists were active.

A letter from that city says that great efforts are made to enlist the agricultural labourers in the ranks of the brigands, and that certain religious orders at Rome are extremely active in the cause. There is a recruiting-office, the letter says, in the Via Frattina, in a house which at night remains uninhabited. The ex-King of Naples, is represented as making frequent excursions to Tivoli to have interviews with Bourbonist chiefs who come down from the mountains. About a week ago, the writer positively affirms, he went to Terracina, and there, at a place called the Frasso, on the beach, he had an interview with three strangers, who landed, in sight of the Pontifical Guards, from a small craft which had come from the neighbouring Neapolitan shore. General Bosco is expected in Rome, it is supposed, to assume the direction of the Bourbonist bands.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is stated that some Turkish vessels of war are now cruising between Antivari and Durazzo, as it is deemed probable that one or other of the Italian volunteer corps may attempt to effect a landing in the northern part of Albania. The Turkish garrisons on the frontiers of Montenegro have been powerfully reinforced.

The *Moniteur du Soir* announces that a Bavarian corps has been concentrated under the walls of Landau—a few leagues distance from the French frontier of the Meurthe and Moselle.

The French Government journal, the *Pays*, is instructed to write with great severity against Austria, and to characterise the step it took on June 1 of submitting the Schleswig-Holstein question to the Federal Diet as a "diplomatic coup d'état."

The Bavarian Government has ordered a further increase of the army by 18,610 men, to be completed by the 2nd of July.

A communication from Gleiwitz (Prussia) relates the following incident:—

The men of the Landwehr were on the point of starting; the train was ready, but the wives of the soldiers opposed its departure, throwing themselves in their despair on the rails in front of the locomotive. Recourse to violence could not be employed. What was to be done? The station-master proposed to the women to accompany their husbands, but in separate carriages. The poor creatures consented; but when the train started, the carriages with the women did not move.

The station-master had had them detached. He took care to get away before the discovery was made.

It is said that Dr. Nélaton, the physician who extracted the ball from Garibaldi's foot, has declared that he has great doubts of Garibaldi's fitness for going through a campaign, or, indeed, undergoing any great fatigue.

The Vienna papers assert that Queen Victoria has addressed a letter to the Empress of the French, asking her Majesty to use every exertion on behalf of the preservation of peace.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

According to accounts from Constantinople, the Sultan has received a letter from Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, in which the latter offers to proceed to Constantinople. In the Turkish Ministry opinions are divided on the question of accepting or refusing the proffered visit. Fud Pasha has expressed great indignation at the attitude which the signatory Powers of the Treaties of 1856 and 1858 have taken up in the question of the Danubian Principalities.

Turkey has addressed a despatch to the Great Powers, in which she persists in demanding their assent to her occupying the Danubian Principalities. The Great Powers, and particularly France, warn the Turkish Government, in reply, that such an occupation might prove fatal to Turkey, and they therefore hoped that the plan would be abandoned.

AMERICA.

Advices from New York are to May 26th.

Mr. Seward has delivered a speech at Auburn, in which he defended the course of the President respecting the recent vetoes. His plan of reconstruction was the only practical one yet suggested. Congress indiscriminately grouped loyal and disloyal by excluding loyal Southern representatives. The differences between the Executive and Congress were, he said, less serious than was supposed, and need not cause the disruption of the Republican party. The general tone of Mr. Seward's speech was mediatorial.

The President and the members of the Cabinet have been serenaded by the National Union Club. The President responded, briefly thanking the Club for this demonstration of approval of his conduct as a public servant. The day was not far distant when the people would be satisfied that they were right. Mr. Stanton delivered a long speech, in which he said the President was cordially supported by the Cabinet. The plan of reconstruction proposed by the Committee in Congress was unwise and impolitic. Mr. McCulloch also warmly approved the President's policy, and said he would eagerly embrace any plan of reconstruction better than his own when ever presented.

The House of Representatives has appointed a joint committee of five members to examine and report upon the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau in the South.

The *New York Tribune* says that the President is preparing a proclamation explaining that the Peace Proclamation is intended to abrogate martial law in the South.

Judge Thomas, of the Circuit Court of Virginia, Alexandria, has decided, in variance to the Civil Rights Bill, that no Congressional legislation can impair the right of the State to enforce the existing laws excluding negro testimony from the courts.

The Governor of North Carolina, in a message to the State Convention, declares that the Civil Government of that State is in complete operation. He strongly endorses the policy of Mr. Johnson.

The report that the Fenian circles at Washington have resolved to support Stephens is denied. Stephens is said to be receiving subscriptions from numerous circles. The Collector of Customs at Rouse's Point seized 1,700 muskets on Friday last, supposed to belong to the Fenians; 87 cases of arms belonging to the Senate faction have been seized at Erie, Pennsylvania. Sir Frederick Bruce has conveyed to Mr. Seward the thanks of the British Government for the efficient means adopted by the Federal Government of the United States to suppress Fenian demonstrations.

Mr. Davis has been granted the freedom of Fortress Monroe on parole. He has also been permitted to have frequent private interviews with Messrs. O'Connor and Shea, and it is rumoured that his trial will be postponed until August.

Accounts published by the Southern newspapers estimate that the coming cotton crop will not exceed 1,500,000 of bales.

BOMBARDMENT OF CALLAO.

After the bombardment of Valparaíso, the Spanish fleet proceeded to Callao, the principal port of Peru. Admiral Nunez, on the 2nd May, attempted to repeat the feat he accomplished at Valparaíso. But this time he had not to deal with an unprotected town. There were two shore batteries of no great strength, and they succeeded, after a fight of four hours, in beating off the Spanish fleet. Two ironclads were disabled, and Admiral Nunez was wounded. The Peruvians lost sixty men killed, including the Secretary of War, and 120 wounded. A New York paper asserts that Chili, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, are endeavouring to effect an alliance with Venezuela, in order to secure a base of operations from which they could invade Cuba.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is stated that Chili has suppressed its Legations in London, Paris, and New York.

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN THE EAST.—Authentic advices from Djeddah, *via* Suez, report that cholera

has broken out among the returning pilgrims between Biehor and Mecca. There is great mortality among the Egyptian soldiers.

A portion of the Catholic Church in Stockholm which had been recently repaired has fallen in and killed 20 persons.

The famine in Orissa has increased to a terrible degree, and painful rumours are current relative to the distress it has caused.

It is feared by Senator Sumner's friends that overwork is seriously impairing his health, and he is urged to take a respite from work.

THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION SCHEME.—Intelligence from New Brunswick announces that the Confederation candidates have been elected in all the parishes of Northumberland. Great excitement prevailed, and riots were apprehended.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY.—An important announcement was made on the 31st of May by M. Rouher in the Corps Législatif. He said that hitherto all negotiations with England for a new treaty of extradition had proved fruitless; but the present treaty had been prolonged for six months to give time for further negotiations. The bill relative to crimes and misdemeanours committed by foreigners was adopted by 212 against 25 votes.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN HAWAII.—Terrible accounts are given of volcanic eruptions on Mauno Loa, in Hawaii. New craters have been opened, one at the height of 10,000 feet, another on the eastern side. One column of liquid fire was an object of awful grandeur. As the jet issued from the orifice it was white heat. As it ascended higher and higher it reddened like fresh blood, deepening its colour until, in its descent, much of it assumed the colour of clotted gore. In a few days the cone raised to a height of 300 feet, and became one vast heap of glowing coals, flashing and quivering with restless action, and sending out the heat of 10,000 furnaces in full blast. And more to the same effect.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and Royal family are still at Cliefden. They attended Divine service on Sunday morning. The Rev. C. Kingsley, Chaplain to her Majesty, officiated.

The Queen will be present at the marriage of the Princess Mary of Cambridge and Prince de Teck, at Kew Church, on the 18th inst.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday afternoon at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury in Downing-street.

The Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Denmark arrived yesterday morning at the Colchester camp.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with their children, accompanied by the Crown Prince of Denmark and the Duke of Edinburgh, returned to Marlborough House on Monday from Tinsess Park. The Royal party previously went to Windsor to see the procession of boats in honour of the 4th of June.

The Duke of Edinburgh is about to pay a visit to Liverpool. He is expected to arrive there on the 20th inst., in the evening, when he will dine at the Grange, the residence of Mr. Graves, M.P., who is commodore of the Mersey Yacht Club. The Royal visit will extend to the 23rd, and is to be marked by several events of interest. The duke is to be the guest of Mr. Graves.

The Chinese Commissioners visited Windsor on Monday. They arrived by ordinary train on the Great Western Railway at twelve o'clock, and proceeded to the castle in two of the royal carriages, with outriders. There were conducted over the castle by Mr. Seabrook, and after visiting St. George's Chapel and the royal gardens, they went to Virginia Water, and on their return visited Eton College.

Official intimation has been received at Balmoral that the Queen is to be there for a short visit on the 14th of June.

Mr. Roebuck has been compelled by the state of his health to apply for a fortnight's leave of absence from his Parliamentary duties.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* states:—"Professor Goldwin Smith will resign the Chair of Modern History at Oxford at the end of this academical year. The Professorship is stated to be worth upwards of 600*l.* per annum. The Professorship of Poetry at Oxford will also shortly become vacant by the expiration of Mr. Matthew Arnold's term of office. Several names have been mentioned in connection with the Professorship, the value of which is 150*l.* per annum. Mr. Arnold was elected in 1857, and re-elected in 1862."

It is understood that Messrs. Peto, Betts, and Co. will formally resume business in a few days. Their works have been going on as usual.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

We understand that another large accession has been made to Mr. Mudie's well-known library, in the shape of "Booth's United Libraries," which Mr. Mudie has just purchased.

Messrs. Longman and Co. have published a third edition of Bishop Ellicott's "Commentary and Translation of St. Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians." The bishop's commentaries on the other epistles have all reached a third edition.

The Rev. J. O. Miller, D.D., late of Birmingham and now of Greenwich, is announced by one of the leading publishing firms shortly to appear in the character of editor of a new illustrated magazine.

The new number of the *Month* (a Catholic maga-

sine, edited by Father Coleridge, the Jesuit, brother of Mr. Coleridge, M.P. and Q.O.) contains an article on "Ecce Homo," which is accredited to Father Newman.

Mr. Longfellow has completed his translation of Dante, and it is now passing through the press.

We have reason to believe that, after all, the Royal Academy will be located at Kensington, and not at Burlington House. It has been found that the space which could be obtained in Piccadilly would not greatly exceed the amount already possessed, and which is quite inadequate to the requirements.—*Engineer*.

The English translation of Dr. Merle D'Aubigné's fourth volume of the History of the Reformation in Europe in the time of Calvin has just been published by Messrs. Longmans. It relates to England, Geneva, France, Germany, and Italy. It resumes the story of the English Reformation where Dr. D'Aubigné left off, namely, after the fall and death of Cromwell.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.

On Thursday last the former scholars met the children at the school, together with many of the committee and their friends, among whom were the Rev. J. Fleming, who presided; Rev. J. Godwin, Rev. J. Nunn, Messrs. Warren Hall, W. N. Wortley, W. S. Gard, E. A. Waugh, and James Townley. Many influential ladies were present. The proceedings commenced by singing and prayer by one of the former scholars. Instead of proceeding to the distribution of rewards to those who had left and were entitled to them, the company were unexpectedly called to witness a most gratifying scene in several presentations to Mr. J. Soul, the secretary. It was introduced by Mr. Hallowell, in a speech highly complimentary to Mr. Soul, setting forth that as a testimonial was on foot by the governors of the charity, the old scholars (who entertained the strongest affection and regard for him) thought it would be a privilege and duty to take their part, but instead of a money presentation that it should take such a form that it would be a perpetual memorial. The speaker referred to various circumstances during twenty-six years of Mr. Soul's services, which had endeared him to them and proved his devotion to the cause of the orphan, especially in connection with the Orphan Working School. He then proceeded to present a very elegant tea-service and cake-basket, of the best electro plate. Immediately there followed two of the youngest children—a boy bearing an inkstand, the present of the masters and boys, and a girl with a kettle to match the tea-service, the present of the matron, mistresses, and girls—a boy reading a short, neat address in excellent style to accompany their presents. Mr. Soul was greatly cheered on rising to thank the hundreds of donors of these costly gifts, which he would not only treasure himself, but his children, and his children's children would value as the connecting link between them and the noble charity to which he devoted his life. He referred to the past history of the school, contrasting it with its present position, and the progress it is making in public estimation. He hoped to see all the donors taking tea at his house from the beautiful tea-service, and concluded by stating that he should like the children to remember the eventful day, not by flogging them all round—as he knew one of the masters did about twenty-five years ago, on the day he was leaving, in order that they might remember him—but by presenting each donor with his portrait, of which he had ordered 500 copies of Mr. Warren, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, one of themselves. The rewards were then distributed to the youths and maidens, who are in various situations, the annual gift of the governors of the charity. More than 60*l.* was thus distributed, much to their satisfaction. Other addresses were given by Messrs. Hallowell, Griffiths, Hursthouse, Rev. J. Godwin, &c. After an excellent closing speech by the chairman, the meeting concluded with singing and prayer. The large room was never so well filled, and every one went home much delighted. It should be mentioned that tea was provided by the committee for allcomers. It appears that very many costly prizes are now offered annually for competition among the children—a silver medal and 2*l.* 10*s.* to a boy, and a silver medal and 1*l.* to a girl; another of 3*l.* 3*s.* to a boy, and of 2*l.* 2*s.* to a girl; a writing-desk to a boy and a workbox to a girl. All the above are by former scholars. There are many prizes besides. These schools are greatly prospering. The annual examination of the children will take place on Thursday, the 14th of June, when, as usual, there will be a large attendance.

FABRICATED FOREIGN NEWS.—More scandalous attempts have been made to impose false intelligence on the London daily press. On Sunday night the *Morning Post* received what purported to be a letter from Mr. Lazard announcing the settlement of the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty. The *Daily News* also received intelligence of a startling character professedly from the same source, but publicly notified to the person who had sent the information that the Minister whose name he had forged was not in town.

CANNY SCOTCH MINISTERS.—On Saturday two Free Church ministers from parishes not far apart, drove to within a short distance of a tollbar in Inverness-shire, approaching from opposite directions. Having stopped their pigs, the ministers got out and walked through the tollbar, when each ascended the other's vehicle and drove away, to repeat the same dexterous manoeuvre on the Monday following, to the amazement as well as the amusement of the tollkeeper, who found himself thus baulked of two fares.—*Inverness Courier*.

Literature.

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR'S NEW STORY.*

Mr. Bayard Taylor's American stories are become quite a standing dish at what we may call the "second course" of our literary table. His "Hannah Thurston" and "John Godfrey" have both been pretty widely read in this country; and the present, his most recent production, is a story both of greater general interest, and, we think, of somewhat advanced style of art. The scene is laid in those virgin fields whose soil has developed so many vigorous and manly qualities; where, in the fresh relations with nature into which he was thrown, man seems to have stripped off so much of the factitious and unreal, and to have once more laid the foundation of a new and healthy society. The time is at the close of the last century, when the memories of the war of independence were fresh, and the traces of well-foughten fields unobliterated. But, as might have been expected from Mr. Taylor, his story is very far from being a political one; and we imagine the time has been thrown so far back, rather to obscure the traces of living persons, from which the characters of the book have been studied, than from a wish to throw out any of its features in a bolder light against the background of a recent revolution.

"Kennett" is one of those New England hamlets of which the author of "The Gayworthys" has given us so fresh and tempting a picture. It is situated in Pennsylvania; and the tone of society is set from that of the original Quaker immigrants. So strong was this influence, says Mr. Taylor, throughout a considerable portion of that State, "that it continued to shape the habits of communities, whose religious sentiment it failed to reach." The Quaker "meeting" was attended by all the inhabitants of a given district; and the Quaker "thou" and "thee" was heard from other lips than those to whom it was a shibboleth. Mr. Taylor, in a pleasant "prologue," dedicates his story to his "friends and neighbours of Kennett," as an acknowledgment of "many quiet and happy years spent among them." At the same time, he points out to how large an extent the story is really what its name declares it to be. He is confident that those whom he addresses will have little or no difficulty in identifying certain of the actors; although "dates and characters" have, he informs them, been "transformed at pleasure"; and the whole wrought up, not in the way of portraiture, but "with a strict regard to the purposes of the story." Mr. Taylor is a man of refined and delicate perception; and moreover he appeals to his selecter circle of readers with an evident assurance of their approval in this matter: otherwise these intimations of his might occasion some misgivings. The characters of the novelist—as indeed of the poet—must be studied from the life, if they are not to be so "spare of flesh" as to leave us altogether unmoved; but the respect due to the privacy of life renders imperative the most careful and delicate use of the materials thus presented. We are far from saying that Mr. Taylor has laid himself open to any censure:—that is a question for the "friends and neighbours of Kennett" to decide. But there is unquestionably a risk of offence, when the characters and incidents of a story are as a whole drawn from any one neighbourhood; and our concern for what is of more importance than an hour's amusement even of so many readers as a clever novelist like Mr. Taylor may command, leads us to call attention to it. The case of Mrs. Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Brontë" is a warning to those who would deal too freely even with those lives which are matters of public interest: and the novelist has not even so much plea for his disclosures.

"Gilbert Potter" and "Martha Deane" are, we think, the two finest portraits Mr. Taylor has yet drawn. The manly, tender strength of Gilbert, and the quiet dignity and perfect womanliness of Martha, leave an impression of repose on the mind, which as a result, is far beyond the eager excitement, which too often hurries the reader through the swiftly-turned pages of the third volume of a "standard" novel. There is a mystery in this as in most novels; and the main element of difficulty against which the hero has to struggle is involved in it. The strength of Gilbert is developed by the fights he has to wage against a dark and not altogether unreasonable prejudice. He is believed—and for a long time believes himself—to be base-born: and the dénouement of the story lies in the lifting off from him of this unmerited reproach. We have no intention of entering into this, the story-teller's own peculiar field. After all, a story is somewhat spoilt by your knowing how it is all going to end; and we shall confine ourselves to saying that this part of the plot has elements of novelty and of force about it of no ordinary kind. The character of Gilbert's mother is admirably

drawn; her saddened but deep and earnest piety and integrity seeming to lay her at the mercy of a selfish and unscrupulous man, but ensuring the well-deserved, ultimate triumph. There is moreover a kindly humanity shown in the way in which even the baser characters are presented by the novelist. There is not one for whom we are not made to feel some pity and charity as well as some bitter indignation; and we lay the book down with more of sympathy even for the ignoble delf and earthenware of humanity.

There is a strong resemblance in some respects between the general features of "Kennett," and a favourite we have already referred to—"The Gayworthys." Both deal to a great extent with the same types of life; though "The Gayworthys" is more a story of to-day than is "Kennett." In both the main interest is that of character—in its blended purity, tenderness, and strength—rather than "sensational" excitement. But there is considerably more variety of incident in "Kennett" than in "The Gayworthys," and more of the novelist's art. There is less of discussing and more stir of motion and life. On the other hand, while we give full credit to the author for the elevation of moral type which he sets before us, we at times miss from his best characters that element of deep-seated faith and earnest piety on which the noblest of earth's sons and daughters have been nursed to that beauty and strength which we admire. Some of the incidents in the "Story of Kennett" are given with unusual spirit and mastery. The scene between "Sandy Flash"—a notorious highwayman of the old school, long the terror of the district—and the swaggering, craven-hearted Alfred Barton, is excellent; nor less so, in another way, the dialogue between the latter and his scheming father, "Old Man Barton," anent the son's courting of Martha Deane. Very good again, is Sandy's second appearance and defiant retreat from the Unicorn Tavern; while the scene in the wretched man's place of refuge on the night previous to his arrest, though revolting, is marked by unmistakable power. And for vigour and truthfulness of description, we have rarely met with anything to exceed Gilbert's night ride towards Chester, together with his rescue from the terrors of the inundation of the Brandywine river. This last we had marked for extract—as perhaps one of the passages best admitting of being detached from the context—but we find it is too long to be taken entire, while it will not admit of curtailment.

In style, Mr. Bayard Taylor shows at least no falling off from his former works. We think we trace an advance. In some of his earlier productions, we have a distant reminiscence of occasional coarseness of expression of which we discern no trace here. Nor do we despair of receiving from him something even superior to his present achievement. There are plentiful other fields in American life and morals, in which he may work; and his powers of thought as well as of representation, qualify him to do something more than simply amuse.

CLARK'S FOREIGN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY.*

The commentaries of Keil and Delitzsch may at this time be presumed to be sufficiently well-known to those of our readers who are devoted to Biblical studies, to justify us in refraining from any merely general remarks on their characteristics as expositors or tendencies as theologians. The work on the Books of Samuel, now issued in English, will be received with a just sense of great gain to the study of Old Testament history in its most significant period, and in its richest spiritual import. We are not aware that it can be said we have, in all our literature, a commentary on this portion of the Hebrew Scriptures, founded on the original text, and entering into the critical and historical questions which arise of it, in any adequate and satisfactory manner. It is almost certain that students too, roughly familiar with these books and all that has been done for their elucidation by commentators, will admit that this work supplies a felt want, and contains more complete and valuable materials for exposition, and even for practical purposes, than all the ordinary English books to which we have been accustomed to resort. We do not suppose that we should have to make any exception to this remark even if we knew, as we do not, the two works of Willett and Guild, which were published more than two centuries ago, but which we have occasionally seen mentioned as if they still held a place in literature. The best help that has been hitherto available for the investigation of the contents of Samuel, and that only within the last two or three years, would, we think, be found in Dr.

* *Biblical Commentary on the Books of Samuel.* By C. E. KEIL, D.D., and F. DELITZSCH, D.D. Translated from the German, by the Rev. JAMES MARTIN, B.A., Nottingham.

Biblical Commentary on the Book of Job. By F. DELITZSCH, D.D. Translated from the German by the Rev. FRANCIS BOLTON, B.A., Elland. Vol. I. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

Davidson's Introduction to the Old Testament, and in the Hon. Mr. Twistleton's article in Dr. W. Smith's Dictionary of the Bible.

Keil and Delitzsch, in attempting to determine the character of these books, regarded as one work, indicate a purposed arrangement of the facts as they are related to the history of salvation; and hold that it was the intention of the author not simply to hand down biographies of Samuel, Saul, and David, but "to relate the history of the Old Testament kingdom of God at the time of its elevation out of a deep inward and outward decline into the full authority and power of a kingdom of the Lord, before which all its enemies were compelled to bow." It is urged that the establishment of the earthly monarchy in Israel was "not only an eventful turning-point, but also an epoch-making advance in the development of the nation towards the goal set before it in its divine calling"; and that this advance became "the pledge of the ultimate attainment of the goal," so that whatever Divine preintimations found a fulfilment in the kingdom of David, constituted at the same time a pledge of the completion eventually of that higher and wider and more glorious kingdom which is ruled by the promised Son of David, the Messiah. The authors thus place themselves alongside the substantial opinion of the orthodox church in all ages: and the great test to which their work will be subjected by those thoroughly studying it throughout, is, whether a true historic insight and unbiassed interpretation will bear out this general view of the character of the books. In our judgment, the authors have displayed fairness, tact, and a reverent sincerity, which have imparted strength and consistency to the view they maintain, and which they find in the entire plan and mode of composition of the work: but we are unable to conceal from ourselves that there is apparent a tendency to bring details into subjection to the idea they have adopted, and to assume something for sanctioned interpretation in a few cases where genuine historical criticism should have pushed further and questioned more penetratingly, and where perhaps even faith might have ventured to doubt.

As to the origin of these books of a wholly unknown author, it is justly held that "all that can be maintained with certainty is, that they were not written till after the division of the kingdom under Solomon's successor." The authors dwell on certain formulas and explanations that belong to the question of date, and conclude that it is to the earliest times after the division of the kingdom that these books must be referred, and not to a period subsequent to the decay of the kingdom, and still less to the captivity. The commentary or exposition really reproduces the history, with critical and explanatory remarks embedded in its substance.

Delitzsch's Commentary on Job is, we think, unquestionably the most valuable work on that inexhaustibly interesting Scripture that has reached us from Germany. The introduction is very excellent; and, though it may not contain many matters that have the air of novelty to persons who, with suitable attainments, have studied the book independently for themselves, it will be admitted on all hands that it takes up thoroughly and ably the various preliminary inquiries as to which the student will desire information, or may possibly feel difficulty. The "problem of the book" is well stated; but we are of opinion that the bounds of judicious and firm interpretation are somewhat violated, if not passed, when the author finds it to have an "unparalleled magnitude, high significance in the historical development of revelation," and a "typical character," which may be expressed in such words as that "the real contents of the Book of Job is the mystery of the Cross,—the Cross on Golgotha," "being the solution of the enigma of every cross," and the book of Job a prophecy of this final solution. Even if James, in his epistle, "compares the patience of Job and the issue of the Lord's sufferings," that comparison falls far short of the position that "the passion of Job is a type of the passion of Jesus Christ."

It seems to be now generally conceded that this book, so often popularly called "the oldest book in the world," cannot possibly have been composed before the time of Solomon; and Delitzsch is equally confident for himself that all the grounds on which it has been sought to prove a post-Solomonic origin may be shown to be invalid; and that the composition of this "masterpiece of religious reflection and systematic creative art" in no other than the period of Solomon might be almost assumed, even were it not confirmed, as he conceives it is, on all sides, and by all varieties of evidence. We do not care to adduce the differing opinions of other scholars; but simply state that at which Delitzsch has arrived. We do not ourselves admit the certainty he claims for it; although we repudiate the view of Ewald and others, which even Dr. Davidson has rejected, that the book belongs to the time of the Captivity. We are glad to see that this learned German—unlike most of his contemporaries in his own land—knows something of the English Biblical literature of the present day; and that he recognises the great merits of the com-

* *The Story of Kennett.* By BAYARD TAYLOR. In Two Volumes. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

mentary of the Rev. A. B. Davidson, published (in part) some four years ago.

The translation of this important work may be heartily and emphatically praised: and we are glad to add the name of Mr. Bolton to the still meagre list of those who can render a German work into good English, with accuracy, and so as to preserve something of the complexion of the original. The new translation of the sacred text is not for a moment to be regarded as designed for such reading as we give to the authorised version; but as an attempt to represent Delitzsch's sense and appreciation of the original. Its object is accomplished with so large a measure of success, that the translator will be the last to complain of the critic who expresses an opinion that sometimes the version is too formal, and in a few instances a little turgid, and that simpler words, yet strictly synonymous, might occasionally have been employed with advantage to the force and clearness of the rendering. We, at the same time, know what his difficulties must have been; and the one sentiment with which we receive the result of his painstaking labour is that of grateful satisfaction.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES.*

There has appeared a reproduction of articles on Workhouse Infirmaries which were published last year in the *Lancet*. The commissioners appointed to inspect the metropolitan workhouse infirmaries were Mr. Ernest Hart, of St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Anstie, of Westminster Hospital, and Dr. Carr, of Blackheath. They appear to have undertaken their important and somewhat invidious task in a kindly and equitable spirit, ready to do full justice to all the good they found attempted or accomplished, anxious to make a generous allowance for individuals, and to put their necessary censures rather in the form of practical suggestions for the removal of glaring evils than bitter denunciations of those who are responsible for the existence or continuance of these evils. We have been struck in reading these reports with this uniform blending of justice and generosity. Evils are exposed with unsparing fidelity, but even the severest censure is mingled with such a just appreciation of all redeeming features that we are persuaded that those who felt themselves condemned ought still more to have felt themselves aided in the prosecution of necessary reforms.

We are glad to know that some of the reforms suggested have been carried out, but much yet remains to be done. No hospital arrangements can be satisfactory in which one medical man has the supervision of some hundreds of sick, infirm, and insane persons, with a small salary, out of which he has to find drugs and dispensing. In many cases there are no prescription cards, so that the medical attendant is supposed to treat his multitudinous cases from day to day by memory. The system of pauper nurses is very general; and the results easily conceivable. There is a great want of proper classification of cases—epileptic and insane cases mixed up with cases of acute disease, or with cases of simple infirmity or old age. Too little attention is paid to providing sources of cheerfulness and amusement and comfort for children, convalescents, aged, and infirm persons. Ventilation, water supply, lighting, and drainage, is in many cases miserably defective. The dietary regulations are generally faulty, especially in regard to securing variety, and giving free scope to the medical attendant to secure extra and concentrated nourishment for those who require it. It is a very important fact that low and insufficient diet for elderly or infirm persons does not necessarily shorten life. The effect is very frequently to produce a condition of mental and physical deterioration, a suppression or degradation of the choicest vitality. The underfed person becomes scarcely human, he vegetates rather than lives, all his forces dwindle, and his existence is a dreary, useless mooning away of time. He ceases after a time either to suffer or enjoy, and simply encumbers the ground till death, sooner or later, releases him. It is sad to think how much of human existence is thus wasted in our workhouses and infirmaries, and how easily much of it might be prevented by very simple alterations in the diet of these unhappy persons, such as occasionally giving roast instead of boiled meat, or farinaceous pudding instead of the inevitable pea-soup. We select this feature of workhouse mismanagement for especial remark, rather than many others, because we are persuaded that very many institutions besides workhouses, schools, and even private families, need reform in this particular. We know a school where the boys never have any meat except beef, generally roast beef, and we are persuaded that many children in respectable families would flourish better if their feeding was less regulated by rule, and they had more freedom of selection.

With regard to the reform of workhouse infirmaries, it is important to know that the best arrangements for health and comfort are sure in the

* The Lancet Sanitary Commission on the Workhouse Infirmaries of London.

long run to be the most economical. The consequence of existing arrangements in many cases is to make those who would otherwise be only temporary inmates of the workhouse, permanent inmates, and thus to add largely to the parochial rates by the penny-wise and pound-foolish system of false economy. There is also the important consideration, which the *Lancet* commissioners have not alluded to—it was perhaps hardly within the scope of their design—that all wise sanitary arrangements in a workhouse have a wholesome educational influence which is felt outside. When the necessity for fresh and pure air, free ventilation, personal and household cleanliness, is once learnt, it is not easily unlearned, and it is undeniable that all children brought up by the parish ought to have these healthy instincts so thoroughly implanted that they shall find dirt and close atmosphere intolerable when they are launched into the world. Even adults in the poorer classes are sometimes capable of learning this much-needed lesson, and every well-managed workhouse should be a school of sanitary reform for all of its inmates who are able and willing to receive such instruction.

NEW EDITIONS.

Memoir of George Wilson, M.D., F.R.S.E. By HIS SISTER. A New and Condensed Edition. (Macmillan and Co.) We receive with great pleasure a compressed edition of the *Memoir of the late Dr. George Wilson*; and fully agree with the author that "its acceptability to the general public has been increased" by such condensation, while we bear our testimony that "nothing essential to the interest of the book has been omitted." Highly as we valued the larger work, as a minutely perfect record of a most instructive life, and as the portraiture of a character worthy of honour and love for nobleness, geniality, and true religion, we were afraid from the first that it was too extended to make its way in circles to which Dr. G. Wilson was little known, or to engage in the faithful perusal of its whole detail, the young men of literary and scientific pursuits for whom chiefly we thought it to be a work full of best influence and richest suggestion. In reviewing it, we ventured to ask some such condensation as this: and we now have only to express our gratitude, and to commend to all cultivated readers, but particularly to students, and to medical students with strongest emphasis, this charming biography of one of the truest of men and most reverent of the children of science that has lived among us in these times.

A Summer in Skye. By ALEXANDER SMITH. (A. Strahan.) So freely did we speak the praises of this book on its appearance last year, and so hearty still is our admiration for its manly and literary merits, that the publication of a "popular edition" calls for no more than the renewal of our general commendation. Everybody may read it with lively pleasure; but of those who are planning their summer holiday, a goodly proportion of the mildly adventurous will surely read it with particular attention, and will then—go to Skye. Mr. Alexander Smith will, we think, be found to have done something more for Skye than picture it pleasantly: he will probably have attracted to it some of the better order of tourists, whose demands will make it more easily accessible, and their gold improve the quality of its accommodations. Anyhow, he has given us the most delightful book of its class that we have seen for many a day.

Lays of the Pious Minstrels. Edited and arranged by HENRY WRIGHT. Eleventh Thousand. (Houlston and Wright.) We are not at all surprised that this collection of English sacred poetry, with its judicious selection from foreign writers, has had the distinction of a circulation of several thousands within the year. In the present edition, the authors' names are added to the poems included; several pieces appear in print for the first time; and careful revision has rendered the volume more worthy than ever of "the lovers of sacred poetry." The great merit of the selection is, that it has not kept to beaten paths and well-known compositions, but, for the most part, its contents will have to ordinary readers the attraction of novelty as well as of poetical excellence and devotional truth and expressiveness.

The Prayer that Teaches to Pray. By the Rev. MARCUS DODS, A.M. Second Edition.—*Manual of Devotion, from the Writings of St. Augustine.* Edited and translated by the Rev. MARCUS DODS, M.A. Second Edition. (Edinburgh: Inglis and Jack.) The first of these little volumes deserved reproduction, and may be widely useful not only in expounding the thoughts of the Lord's Prayer, but in quickening the spirit of devotion, and in giving to the understanding and the heart more of the spirituality and purity, and of the force and practicalness, which true prayer nourishes and unfolds. The translations from Augustine should be found in every retiring chamber, and unquestionably form one of the most precious devotional books that the Church has ever received from the most saintly and exalted wisdom. The "Manual," which, of three devotional works ascribed to Augustine, is generally allowed to be genuine, is here reproduced entire, together with selections from the other compilations of such passages as seem to have marks of his authorship.

The Contributions of Q. Q. By JANE TAYLOR. Thirteenth Edition. (Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.) Yet another edition of the universally and deservedly

popular works of "the late Jane Taylor"! A new and very brief preface to this thirteenth edition bears the name of "Isaac Taylor," the son, as we suppose (now well-known in literature by his own performances) of that admirable brother of the authoress, whose works belong to our permanent religious and philosophical literature. It is said, quite justly, that some of these pieces, "such as 'The Discontented Pendulum,' and 'How it Strikes a Stranger,' have taken a place among 'the classical compositions of the English language.'" Considering that these essays are at least fifty years of age, it is a little amusing to read that "it has been thought that the time has now come when, in a cheap form, they may take a place on the shelves of a still 'larger circle of readers and admirers.'" We only hope that it will not prove that that time did not come, and go, long since; for it is not to be overlooked that the tastes and demands of those who first read these papers have largely disappeared, and the same class of readers is more exacting, because better provided with variety and excellence, in this book-deluged day in which we live. For ourselves, Jane Taylor has always been a family classic.

It is enough to say in a sentence, that we have before us a "cheap edition of Miss Manning's *Maiden and Married Life of Mary Powell*, afterwards *Mistress Milton* (Hall and Co.)—this being the fourth republication of that finely-conceived, well-studied, and charmingly-written book,—the book, we think, by which the author will always be best known. Also new editions of *Jenks' Prayers and Offices of Devotion for Families*, as improved by the Rev. CHARLES SIMMON (William Tegg); and of *Family Worship, for Every Day in the Month*, by Rev. JAMES BEAN (W. Tegg),—the former in the thirteenth and the latter in the eleventh edition, and both well known and largely used where such helps are necessary.

The Gospel Treasury, and Expository Harmony of the Four Evangelists. Compiled by ROBERT MIMPRISS. Second Edition. (Elliot Stock.) This is the second quarto edition of Mr. Mimpriss's now widely-known work,—a beautiful volume, clearly printed, and with suitable illustrative maps. Where commendations have been so abundant and emphatic, and use has become so general, as in the case of this excellent work, it is not necessary to do more than remind those who are not possessed of it that it contains a Harmony, after Greswell, with Analytical Introductions, Notes from some of the most approved books of biblical literature, Scripture Illustrations, selected with great knowledge and judgment, Geographical Notices, Practical Reflections, and others matter suited to the promotion of an intelligent and fruitful study of the Gospels. Probably no other single volume contains so much material; and where books are few, it must be of immense service, especially to the Sunday-school teacher, or the lay preacher, or the parent who thoughtfully engages in the religious education of home.

NICHOL'S PURITAN DIVINES.—We take a separate paragraph to notice the completion of the first section of this admirable series, by the issue of the fifth volume of *Charnock's Works*, with *Memoir* by Dr. M'COSH, and with full Indexes. The publisher whose enterprise has so largely benefited students and ministers has lately passed away from us; but his project is enlarged to the production of a second series, which will be extended over three years only, issuing five volumes yearly for the subscription of a guinea prepaid: and the works to be included are those of Thomas Brooks, 6 vols.; George Swinnock, 5 vols.; Henry Smith, 2 vols.; Richard Gildpin, 1 vol.; and John Goodwin, 1 vol.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Millicent Legh. A Tale. By EMMA MARSHALL, Authoress of "Brothers and Sisters," "Helen's Diary," "Brook Silvertone," &c. (London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.) *Millicent Legh*, the heroine of this very interesting and well-written tale, is a most sweet and lovable lady. Raised by her marriage with Sir Stephen Legh to a position far above that of her early home, she enters upon and fulfils all the duties of her station with a gentleness and quiet goodness so as to win all hearts. The authoress has succeeded in delineating, in her, a perfect lady, without any of the more usual and prominent conditions and accessories of feminine greatness, a true womanly woman, whose chief characteristics are sweetness and goodness, all-pervasive in their influence yet never obtrusive. In many respects *Millicent* reminds us of Tennyson's portrait of the gentle lady whom the Lord of Burleigh chooses for a wife. As a foil to *Millicent*, and the evil genius of the tale, is Florence Legh, a married relative, who spends much of her time at *Millicent's* home, an envious, self-seeking, heartless, and utterly disagreeable creature. The characters of Sir Stephen, with a sufficient confidence in his own integrity and sound judgment; of Sister Ida, frank, impressible, and passionate; of Mr. Roberts, a vulgar rich man, connected by marriage with the family; and of Mr. Barnard, the young clergyman, ardent and uncompromising, with more of faith and hope than charity, and more of zeal than gentleness, are naturally and effectively drawn. We are sure all readers will be well pleased with this tale. Its illustration of the force of gentleness, and the tracing-out of the softening and

purifying influence of a Christian lady silently operating upon all brought into contact with her, are especially noticeable. "Millicent Legh" will certainly not detract from Mrs. Marshall's well-worn reputation.

The Age of Man Geologically considered in its Bearing on the Truths of the Bible. By JOHN KIRK, Professor of Practical Theology in the Evangelical Union Academy. (London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.) This excellent little book is just what is wanted to be put into the hands of the many amongst us who have but little time and few books at command, and who yet wish to know the merits of the contest going on between the advocates of Science and Scripture. They hear of the constant assaults and noisy attacks made by the rank and file of pretenders to science, led on by men of reputation for learning and research, against what they have always considered to be the most impregnable citadel of truth, and, in perplexity and fear as to what the issue will be, they long to know just how the matter stands. Mr. Kirk is able to give just the requisite information, and, in doing so, to banish all fears as to the future of the Bible. Having for some time quietly observed the fruitless invasions of the sacred territory by scientific men, he has gone over into their regions to search into their competency for this particular kind of warfare. What he has seen and pondered and pronounced judgment upon he here details, and truly his report is both instructive and encouraging. He directs his treatise chiefly against Sir Charles Lyell's larger work on the Antiquity of Man, as he "is the great representative of the views which are so hostile to the sacred Scriptures." After several introductory chapters, Mr. Kirk enters upon the discussion of the special arguments for the antiquity of the human race, founded on the "Growth of Peat," the deposit of mud in the deltas of rivers, the "Contraction of Lakes," "Beds of Gravel and Sand," "Formations from Ice," "The Glacial Period," "Upheaval and Subsidence," "Trees," "Shells," "Skulls," "Languages," &c., &c. The uniform result of these discussions we may give in his own words, when treating the argument from the formation of ice:—"As we proceed with the examination of this argument, and remember that we are canvassing the work of one who has no equal in his peculiar field, we cannot avoid being amazed at the extreme ease with which what are called 'the cultivated classes,' are drawn away from the grandest of all sources of knowledge for man. The most empty of all conceivable conjecture, coupled with facts that have no real bearing on the issues that are given out as flowing from them, are mixed up and garnished with references to 'eminent men' in such a manner as to make an imposing dish. This provision is swallowed with the profoundest relish, and the 'bread of life' is set aside and despised."

Christ our Light. By CHARLES GRAHAM, Minister of Oaklands Chapel. (London: Morgan and Chase.) In thirteen chapters the author sets forth the various aspects in which the nature, character, and mission of our Lord, as a light and an enlightener, may be contemplated. The several subjects are treated with force and freedom, and are the more commended to popular acceptance by copious illustration drawn from many sources.

The Bible: its Superiority in Character, Composition, Information, and Authority, to all Uninspired Literature. A Lecture by S. R. BOSANQUET, Esq., Author of "New Logic," "Excelsior," &c., &c. (London: Hatchard and Co.) The opposition which the Bible, as a revelation from God, has met with, has varied as the circumstances and fashion of the age have changed. Now, by some who seem to consider themselves the leaders of modern thought, the Bible is patronised while its special claims are ignored. It is treated merely as one book amongst many, remarkable, certainly, for its antiquity and certain other peculiarities, but, still, to be received and dealt with just like any other old book, and perhaps, ere long, to be superseded altogether by some *magnum opus* of a master in Science. Mr. Bosanquet, in this lecture, attempts to show how all the attacks made in past times upon God's Book have signally failed; and of the present attitude of *savans* towards it he says, "The philosophic world are intensely eager to find some thing which shall prove that Moses' Chronology is wrong, and that the races of men must go much farther back than the age which he attributes to the creation of Adam. They catch at every straw, and make it grow, like Jack's beanstalk, into a tower of Babel, to support castles and visionary fields for their own wanderings; but they have never been able to establish one single historical fact or circumstance which could require an earlier existence of man than Noah's Deluge." The lecture, then, takes up the positive argument, and shows how in History, Geography, Poetry, Eloquence, "Dramatic descriptions and surprises," the Bible far surpasses the highest achievements of human genius or research. As to Philosophy, upon which its detractors plume themselves, it is asserted that the Bible never condescends to it! Several other of the unique qualities and characteristics of Holy Scripture, and their special adaptedness to the wants of men are also pointed out. Within a very small compass this lecture contains a vast amount of matter moulded and shaped by a ready hand. The style is terse and luminous. The mind of the author seems to be widened and deepened by familiar knowledge of the

Scriptures; and his spirit to be in harmony with the Spirit of God.

NOTICEABLE PAMPHLETS.

"The Conscience Clause." Its History, Terms, Effect, and Principle. A Reply to Archdeacon Denison. By JOHN OAKLEY, M.A. (London: William Ridgway.) While cordially endorsing Burke's dictum that "Dis-sent, not satisfied with toleration, is actuated not by 'conscience, but by ambition,'" Mr. Oakley still pleads earnestly for "The Conscience Clause." From the appalling ignorance that prevails in the lower strata of society, and from the example of other countries that are far ahead of us in the matter of general education, he contends for a national and compulsory system of education, and appeals to the Established Church, to which, of course, overtures are made by the State for the undertaking of this great work, not to be unwisely rigid in her terms of acceptance of these overtures. This pamphlet was prepared to be read at a meeting of the London clergy. It enters fully into the whole question, and shows what may be said *pro* and *con* upon it; and, in especial, Archdeacon Denison's seventeen reasons why the Church of England may have nothing to do with any manner of Conscience Clause are given, with seventeen full and sufficient answers appended.

Fidelity and Unity. A Letter to the Reverend E. B. Pusey, D.D., Regius Professor of Hebrew, and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. By the Reverend HUGH McNEILE, D.D., Canon Residentiary of Chester, and Incumbent of St. Paul's, Prince's Park, Liverpool. (London: Hatchard and Co.) Here is close reasoning and fervent expostulation with Dr. Pusey. He is entreated not to suffer himself to be a "decoy" of the Church of Rome, and to withdraw his "fine mind from the hallucinations of mediæval traditions." His inconsistency is pointed out in proffering an embrace to the Latin and Greek idolaters because they hold the desired form of Church government, while fellowship is refused "to the Presbyterian and Congregationalist, though they keep the vital doctrines of the Church, whole and undefiled." Several extracts are taken from Pascal's "Provincial Letters," whose exposures and rebukes are shown not inaptly to apply to certain ideas and schemes in favour with Dr. Pusey. The utter vanity of his hopes as to a "Unity of Christendom" is forcibly pointed out, and Dr. McNeile takes occasion to give his own views upon the import of our Lord's prayer that His Church might be one. Dr. Pusey is answered that his advances, while anything is reserved, will be treated with scorn by the Romish Church, though received with adulation; and he is adjured to be again of the same mind as when he wrote the preface to "Daniel the Prophet," and to act upon the spirit of his own words in this preface, in maintaining "exclusive adherence to definite truth."

Spiritual Worship. A Lay Discourse. By R. M. BEVERLEY. Second Edition. (London: R. Hardwicke.) This is a quiet, but earnest, protest against all symbolism in Christian worship. Mr. Beverley thinks "Very Reverend" and "Holy Father" are not quite free from impiety. He cannot see the sanctity of crucifixes, copes, dalmatics, genuflections, and processions, nor is he able to perceive how the chancel of a church "is more holy than the nave," and that the singers represent the heavenly host praising God in heaven. He believes there is a more excellent, a more apostolic way of worship, and that this is of extreme simplicity. The lofty pretensions of the clergy are disallowed, and the spiritual priesthood of every believer,—grand truth so much ignored—is insisted on. The writer sees with grief and indignation the increase of the Puseyite school, and the manifest leaning towards Rome. "Many churches in the Establishment are now little else than forcing beds for transplanting slips of Puseyism into 'the Papal hothouse.'" *Conversions to Rome*, he calls a "relinquishment of the mask." This Romanising, he considers, is connived at by many of the bishops, while those who really view it with disfavour fear to attempt to check it.

Reformation, the True Road to Unity; A Plea for a Revision of the Prayer-book, and of the Authorised Version of the Bible. By the Rev. ARTHUR WOLFE, M.A., Rector of Farnham All Saints and of Westley, Bury St. Edmunds; late Fellow and Tutor of Clare College, Cambridge. (Cambridge: Dighton, Bell, and Co. London: Bell and Daldy.) While so much is said now of the unity of Christendom, and clerical hands are stretched out towards Rome, Mr. Wolfe is surprised that no effort is made to draw into fellowship with the Church of England the various bodies of Nonconformists. As one means to this desirable end, he thinks the revision of the Bible and the Prayer-book would have considerable effect. After showing the urgent need there is for a revision of the Bible, he concludes that this is not undertaken from the fear that it might lead to "tampering" with the Prayer-book. The several most objectionable parts of the Prayer-book are then examined, and the great need there is of a careful revision is forcibly urged.

Sunday. By E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Professor of Divinity and Chaplain of King's College, London, and Prebendary of St. Paul's. Reprinted, with additions, from the *Contemporary Review*. (London and Edinburgh: A. Strahan.) The Sabbath question is here stated and discussed without *animus*. Such terms as Sabbatarianism

on the one side, and Sabbath-breaking on the other, are deprecated. The observance of one day in seven from the time of the Patriarch to that of the Reformers is reviewed. Sympathy, though not entire, with Dr. Macleod is expressed; and Dr. Hessey's "Bampton Lecture" is greatly admired, though the reasoning by which he claims a Divine and perpetual authority for the observance of the Lord's-day is not accepted as valid. Mr. Plumtre approves of the opening of our public parks and gardens on the Sunday, but disapproves of the Sunday bands and the opening of museums, public galleries, &c., on that day.

Our Colonial Empire and the Case of New Zealand. By JAMES BUSBY, her Majesty's Resident at New Zealand from 1832 to 1840, and a Settler there since that period. (London and Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate.) Great Britain's mission is to colonise the earth. This mission she has largely discharged, but there is great danger, according to Mr. Busby, of her losing the true glory and reward of her great work. It is contended that self-government in the colonies does not weaken the relation of those colonies to the Crown; that what is called "responsible government" may be designated, "a permissive betrayal of the trusts of legislation and government by those to whom those trusts have been delegated." It is maintained that it is for the interests of the colonists that the Home authority be strictly and directly enforced; that if power be conceded to the colonists themselves, the worse and not the better class of politicians will inevitably get into office, and that hence will arise, and have constantly arisen, complications with the Home Government, feuds with the natives, and intestine disorders. The federation of the New Zealand colonies, it is asserted, has led to the establishing of an irresponsible oligarchy; and, consequently, the prospective federation of the North American colonies is viewed with distrust. Mr. Busby supports his views by a large induction of facts; and certainly has a claim to be heard.

The Danger of Deterioration of Race from the too rapid Increase of Great Cities. By JOHN EDWARD MORGAN, M.A., M.D. Oxon., Physician to the Salford Hospital, Hon. Secretary Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association. Paper read at the Social Science Congress, Sheffield, October, 1865. (London: Longmans.) A large citation of facts and figures, which he has had peculiar facilities for collecting, are used by Mr. Morgan to show that there is imminent danger of great deterioration of race in this country. The vastly increased immigration from the country into large towns is said to be the chief source of the evil since it so largely tends to promote the three principal causes of deterioration, vitiated air, constitutional syphilis, and drunkenness. In an Appendix eight Tables of Statistics are given relative to town and country populations; and they will be found full of significance by the observant.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Albert Nyanza, Great Basin of the Nile, 2 Vols.; Dramatic Studies; The Prometheus Bound of Æschylus (Macmillan and Co.). Prison Characters Drawn from Life, 2 Vols. (Hurst and Blackett). The Decalogue and the Lord's Day; The Fatherhood of God (W. Blackwood and Sons). Twelve Months with Frederika Bremer, 2 Vols. (Jackson, Walford, and Hodder). Bayne on the Epistle to the Ephesians; Goodwin's Works, Vol. XII. (J. Nichol). The Bible and its Interpreters (J. T. Hayes). Pivot Words of Scripture (W. Macintosh). Christianity without Judaism; Reason and Faith (Longman and Co.). The Home Life (Smith, Elder, and Co.). The Ages (Morrison). Footsteps of a Prodigal (Stock). What Jesus Is (S. W. Partridge). Curiosities of Literature, Part I. (Routledge and Sons). The Theatre (J. Snow). Cosas de Espana 2 Vols. (A. Strahan). Self-Help, a New Edition (J. Murray). A Commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel (E. Stock). The Papal Drama (Longman and Co.). The Gentle Philosopher (J. Blackwood). The Prince's Progress, and other Poems (Macmillan). Miscellaneous Discourses (A. Strahan). Photographic Portraits of Men of Eminence, Part XXXVI. (A. W. Bennett). The Use of Organs in Public Worship (W. R. M'Phun and Son.)

Miscellaneous News.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The cattle plague returns for the week ending May 26th are more favourable than for some time past. The number of cases reported was 1,207, against 1,932 for the preceding week. The total number of cases reported from the outbreak of the disease was 244,455, of which 124,073 had died, 73,832 had been killed, and 32,283 recovered.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Bonham Carter has been re-elected for Winchester by 361 votes against forty-six given to Dr. Lempriere, his Conservative opponent. There was no possible chance for Dr. Lempriere being returned, but the main object of his opposition in keeping the poll open the whole of the day was accomplished so far that it prevented Mr. Carter from reaching London in time to be sworn on Monday night, and take part in the Reform debate. Mr. Bagehot, the editor of the *Economist*, has issued his address to the electors of Bridgewater. He avows himself a sincere Liberal, an advocate for the admission of the working classes to their fair share of the representation, and for the transfer of electoral rights from decaying and needy towns to constituencies with larger numbers, and of more independence and intelligence. He is in favour of Mr. Gladstone's bill for the settlement of the Church-rate question; and will support every measure for the wise promotion of civil and religious liberty.

Mr. Bagehot arrived in Bridgewater on Friday evening, and on reaching the Cornhill addressed the people there assembled; he also spoke, and at greater length, at the Assembly Rooms on Saturday. Mr. Patton, the Conservative candidate, arrived on Saturday evening, and afterwards addressed his friends and supporters at the Clarendon Hotel.

DR. UNDERHILL ON THE JAMAICA DISTURBANCES.

—Dr. Underhill was among the speakers at a Baptist missionary meeting at Bristol, on Wednesday. He said he had reason to believe that the report of the Jamaica Commissioners was of so serious a nature that the Government were not content simply to take the opinion of the Commissioners, but to place the evidence in the hands of the House. That looked ominous, and led them to hope that the Government were perfectly aware of the solemnity of the crisis, and also of the great importance of justly and impartially dealing with the events that had taken place. He had had an interview with Mrs. Gordon, and he commended her to their warmest sympathies. She was a lady whom they might well love, and he certainly had formed a high estimate of her. She was suffering very deeply; for her adversaries, who were the adversaries of her husband, had not only destroyed his life, but had sought to blacken his character and overthrow all confidence in his honesty and integrity. He (the speaker) could state confidently that there was no basis whatever for that; it was one of those monstrous lies by which the devil sought to injure those whom he could not otherwise reach. What the future of that excellent lady might be he could not tell. Should the Government resolve to prosecute the Governor of Jamaica, the matter would go on in a legal form; but it might be that she herself would have to vindicate her husband in a British court of law.

MR. DUFFY ON AUSTRALIA.—At the last meeting for the session of the Society of Arts on Thursday evening, a very interesting paper on "Popular Errors concerning Australia," was read by the Hon. Charles Gavan Duffy. The hon. gentleman vindicated the Government of the colony and the colonists from the charges respectively of instability and a desire for change, and refuted the statement that the sudden changes of Government were attributable to the extension of the franchise. An interesting debate followed the reading of the paper. Mr. Marsh, M.P., drew a dismal picture of the condition of society in the colony. New South Wales and Victoria were in a state of financial and political retrogression; property was insecure, the magistracy unfitted for their duties, and the members of the legislature venal and corrupt. Mr. Duffy asked the hon. gentleman to adduce a single proof of the latter charge, which request Mr. Marsh did not think fit to comply with. Mr. Hart, late Chief Secretary of South Australia, followed, and combated the opinions of Mr. Marsh, stating that South Australia was never in a more prosperous financial condition than at present, and that universal suffrage and the ballot worked admirably in it. Sir John Gray, M.P., made some pertinent observations with respect to the alleged insecurity of property in Australia; and the proceedings closed with a warm vote of thanks to the Hon. Mr. Duffy for his able paper.

OUR BEVERAGES, NARCOTICS, AND STIMULANTS.

—By a Parliamentary paper it appears that in the year 1865 the quantity of tea retained for home consumption in the United Kingdom was 97,834,600 lb.; the net amount of duty received thereon being 3,187,130 l.; the rate of consumption per head, 3.29 lb.; and the rate of contribution per head to the revenue, 2s. 1½d. From June 1, 1865, the duty on tea was reduced to 6d. per lb. With respect to coffee the home consumption was 30,506,872 lb.; the duty, 881,556 l.; consumption per head, 1.02 lb.; and revenue per head, 3d. The duty per lb. is 3d. for raw, and 4d. for prepared coffee. The consumption of sugar was 10,803,528 lb.; duty, 5,193,816 l.; consumption per head, 39.89 lb.; and revenue per head, 3s. 5½d. The consumption of molasses was 567,967 lb.; duty, 93,677 l.; consumption per head, 2.14 lb.; and duty per head, 3d. The duty per cwt. on sugar and molasses varies from 16s. to 3s. 6d. The consumption of foreign and colonial spirits was 6,732,217 gallons; the duty, 3,465,636 l.; consumption per head, 0.33 gallons; and duty per head, 2s. 4d. The duty per gallon on spirits is from 14s. to 10s. 2d. Of wine the consumption in the year was 11,993,760 gallons; the duty, 1,372,885 l.; consumption per head, 0.40 gallons; and duty per head, 11d. The amount of duty per gallon is from 2s. 6d. to 1s. The tobacco consumed was 38,902,151 lb.; the amount of duty 6,197,077 l.; the consumption per head, 1.13 lb., and the duty per head, 4s. 2d. The duty is from 3s. 18-10d. to 5s. With respect to the foregoing returns it is observable that while the consumption of tea has been rapidly increasing within the last few years that of coffee is decreasing. The total amount of duty received on the former article has been decreasing, owing to the lowering of the scale of duty year after year—and also on the latter article, although the duty has only been lowered ½d. per lb. since 1862. The consumption of sugar and molasses is increasing largely and steadily, but the total receipts of duty fall with the lowering of the rate per pound. The net receipts for 1865 are greater than those for 1864. The consumption of spirits and wine, as well as the amount of duty received from them, is also increasing rapidly. The same is the case with tobacco, where the increase in both respects is even more remarkable.

A MANIAC IN THE MOUNTAINS.—The *Carlisle Journal* describes the vagaries of a man who has turned recluse and taken up his abode in a cave on Skiddaw, in the Cumberland Lake district. It

appears that about three years ago an eccentric-looking man, of tall and slender build, a pale complexion, and speaking with a Scotch accent, paid a visit to Keswick, where he occupied lodgings for a week. During that period he made frequent excursions up Skiddaw, always returning with his clothes covered with mud; and his mysterious wanderings excited considerable attention at the time, various stories being set afloat of his search for precious metals or a hidden treasure. Leaving his lodgings in Keswick, the stranger took up his abode on the breast of Skiddaw, sleeping at night in a small cave or pit, sheltered by a portable roof of reeds, and lined with moss. He has now, except at short intervals, remained about three years upon Skiddaw, at others moving on to Saddleback and Helvellyn, one of his fancies being to preach sermons to the mountain sheep. His appearance is described by those who have seen him as ludicrous in the extreme. His hair is thrown over his shoulder and hangs far down his back, and forms the only protection for the head; his clothes seem to have been in the height of fashion twenty years ago, and are quite threadbare; he wears no shoes, and goes on his peregrinations in his stockings only. He gives the name of Smith, and judging by his language, belongs to Scotland, but when questioned on the subject gives an evasive answer. He makes almost daily visits to Keswick, where he purchases tea and sugar, mixing and eating them dry. His only cooking apparatus is a small pan, in which he cooks messes of very questionable ingredients, boiling them by the aid of lighted tallow. Through the limited accommodation of his habitation, he is obliged to lie in a circular position, much resembling that of a dog in a kennel. In some of his descents into the valleys his appearance frightened some of the peaceful inhabitants, and the police having had their attention directed to him he recently underwent incarceration in the county gaol for disorderly conduct at Keswick. While in prison he painted a good portrait of the governor of the gaol, but it had been a great grief to him to have his hair cut, according to prison rule, on his entrance. Having finished his term of imprisonment he has now gone back to his old haunts a cleaner if not a wiser man.

Gleanings.

There are still in Ireland 445,231 tenants whose holdings only average twelve acres of land.

Mr. James Christie, of Olapham, a shareholder in the Bank of London, has committed suicide under exaggerated fears that he was ruined.

There are seventeen manufactories of paper collars in the New England States, and each girl employed makes about 1,000 collars daily.

A memorial bust of Captain Speke, of whom Somersetshire has so great reason to be proud, has been placed in the Shire-hall at Taunton.

Upwards of 400 clerks, many of them family men, and advanced in life, have been thrown out of employment in London in consequence of the recent bank failures.

Among those who had assembled on Thursday evening to hear the reform debate were the Chinese Ambassadors and their suite.

At the dinner of the Royal Geographical Society Sir Henry Rawlinson said he believed there were not a dozen members of the House of Commons who knew where the Bay of Fundy was.

According to the *Star*, Mr. Gale, the blind discoverer of the process for making gunpowder combustible, has invented a revolving rifle which will fire 100 bullets a minute!

The reason for wearing the wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand, appears to be, according to ancient prayer-books, because a vein runs from that finger to the heart.

It is stated that by transplanting flowering plants several times a-year for two successive years, without allowing them to bloom, they can be made to produce double blossoms, while the plant only previously gave single ones.—*Scotch Paper*.

At the Court of Common Council on Thursday a final decision was at length come to in favour of the purchase of Southwark-bridge by the Corporation of London for the purpose of making it toll free. The sum to be given for it is 200,000 l.

WINGS AND TAILS.—A grim, hard-hearted old judge, after hearing a flowery discourse from a pretentious young lawyer, advised him to pluck out some of the feathers from the wings of his imagination and put them into the tail of his judgment.

Mr. Whympers intends to attempt penetrating along the surface of the glaciers of Greenland into the interior, being convinced, from the great quantity of deer that find their way to the coast, that there are, within the glaciers, well-grassed valleys and recesses.

A *mot*, attributed to a well-known capitalist on the Paris Bourse, in reference to the Emperor's speech at Auxerre, is now circulating in Paris among the classes opposed to war. It is said that the Emperor has carried deceit to such a point of refinement that one cannot even believe the contrary of what he says.

A PLEASANT PROSPECT.—The doctrine of the conservation of force seems to have met with an opponent in Professor William Thompson, who has delivered the annual Rede Lecture at Cambridge, taking for his text, "The Dissipation of Energy." He is stated to have arrived at the conclusion that the earth is

again approaching, by the gradual dissipation of energy, to a state resembling its primal condition, and in which it will be, as it had been, uninhabitable by man as at present constituted.

PERSIAN JUSTICE.—A Persian merchant, complaining heavily of some unjust sentence, was told by the judge to go to the cadi. "But the cadi is your uncle," urged the plaintiff. "Then you can go to the grand vizier." "But his secretary is your cousin." "Then you may go to the sultan." "But his favourite sultana is your niece." "Well, then, go to the devil!" "Pooh! pooh!—head of the family!" said the merchant, as he left the court in despair.

LOUIS NAPOLEON.—During Louis Napoleon's residence in London, he was an occasional guest of Lord Combermere. Many members of fashionable society now disavow the opinions which were then openly expressed as to the Prince's abilities. These were never for a moment underrated by the members of Lord Combermere's family, who had been often amused and sometimes provoked at the general estimate of the future Emperor's powers. While silent and reserved, he was quietly studying mankind in general, and the British nation in particular. London fine ladies and gentlemen termed him dull and uninteresting, little recognising the tact and strength of will which was one day to conduct him to that Imperial throne. Yet, notwithstanding his apparent indifference, he was always ready to discuss in an agreeable manner those social questions which interested him. The Emperor of the French would smile now, if he recalled how once, when the princely refugee was invited to dine with Lord Combermere, his non-appearance at the appointed time did not delay the dinner, for no lady or gentleman was ever waited for at the veteran's table. Therefore, soup and fish had been removed before the future sovereign arrived, apologising very courteously for an unpunctuality which was not his own fault. Louis Napoleon's love of art was an early passion, perhaps one of the many qualities that recommend him to his countrymen. At his residence in King-street, St. James's-square, he had collected many artistic gems and family relics, which he highly prized; and a few days before his last departure for Paris, he had invited Lord and Lady Combermere to inspect them. For the latter, as well as for the Marchioness of Londonderry, he made sketches of decorations to ornament their stalls at the great military bazaar, for the benefit of the Irish, which was held at the Life Guards' barracks, in the Regent's-park. It was at one of these stalls that the late Duke of Devonshire, besides purchasing from the other ladies useless trifles at fabulous prices, generously handed Lady Londonderry one hundred pounds in return for her glove, which with chivalrous grace he placed near his heart. The Empress, as Mdile. Montijo, was, equally with her future husband, an occasional guest at Lord Combermere's house. She was known in London society as the Spanish beauty, but handsome as she then was, her loveliness had not expanded into that full splendour which it afterwards attained.—*Memoirs and Correspondence of Field-Marshal Viscount Combermere*.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.

The last news from the Continent, which leaves no room for a hope of peace, has had a depressing effect upon the Stock Markets. The check to previous improvement has extended to Bank Shares, which have again suffered relapse, although towards the close of business hours the tendency was more favourable.

The Money Market is easy, and there have been very few applications for advances at the Bank of England. The sum of 1,026,000 l. in gold has been sent into the Bank since the last return.

Consols closed 85½ for money and 86 to ½ for July.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, May 30.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£26,434,205	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	£ 8,934,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	£11,434,205
	£26,434,205		£26,434,205

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	(Inc. dead weight annuity) £210,864,688
Reserve	£ 8,419,759	Other Securities	£ 88,417,418
Public Deposits	£ 6,183,612	Notes	£ 415,110
Other Deposits	£ 20,407,080	Gold & Silver Coin	£ 444,570
Seven Day and other			
Bills	£ 543,730		
	£45,172,081		£45,172,081

May 31, 1866.

W. MILLER Chief Cashier.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

PORTER-MARTIN.—May 22, at Bond-street Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. Johnson Barker, Mr. William Porter, to Miss Emma Martin, both of Leicester.

MORGAN-PICKFORD.—May 22, at the Independent chapel, Frampton-on-Severn, by the Rev. Mr. Hurd, Henry John, eldest son of Mr. Henry Morgan of that place, to Mary, second daughter of Mr. George Pickford, Gloucester.

ROGERS—ALLBUTT.—May 26, at Christ Church, Acton Park, Birmingham, by the Rev Isaac Lord, Mr. John Rogers, to Drusilla, fifth daughter of Mr. Joseph Allbutt, both of Birmingham. This being the first time of celebrating the ordinance of matrimony in the above place of worship, an elegantly-bound annotated Bible was presented by the minister to the newly married couple at the close of the service.

CLAYTON—CRAPNELL.—May 28, at the Independent chapel, St. Nicholas-street, Ipswich, by the Rev A. Warmington, Mr. Arthur Clayton, of Woodbridge, to Miss Sarah Ann Crapnell, of Wellington-street, Ipswich.

FOWLER—STREKT.—May 20, at Bedford Chapel, Camden-town, by the Rev. Thomas Jones, Mr. Thomas Motley Fowler, of North-street, Brighton, to Elizabeth Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. G. H. Street, of Millfield-lane, Highgate rise.

BELLMAN—MACLAINE.—May 29, at Mare-street Chapel, Hackney, by the Rev Daniel Katterna, Mr. Robert Alexander Bellman, of Cavendish-terrace, Victoria-park-road, to Amy, second daughter of Archibald MacLaine, Esq., of the Bank of England and Hackney.

CRICKETT—WARD.—May 30, at Cavendish-street Independent Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. Joseph Parker, D.D., George Bodman Crickett, of Old Trafford, Manchester, to Charlotte, only daughter of Joseph Ward, Marlborough-place, Whalley Range, Manchester, and niece of the late George Pilkington.

ALLEN—ANTHONY.—May 31, at Howard Chapel, Bedford, by the Rev W. Allott, assisted by the Revs. J. Allen, of Dawlish, and J. P. Allen, M.A., of Leicester, the Rev. S. Thosley Allen, of Birmingham, to Mary Palmer, youngest daughter of Jacob Anthony, Esq., of Bedford.

CRAIG—CORNISH.—May 31, at Zion Chapel, Stafford, by the Rev J. Trestrail, of Greenwich, the Rev. William James Craig, of Dean, Bedfordshire, to Anne, eldest daughter of the Rev. W. H. Cornish, Baptist minister, of Stafford.

TYNDALL—MANNERING.—June 2, at Union Chapel, Islington, by the Rev. Edward Mannerling, uncle of the bride, Henry Augustus Tyndall, of Bristol, only son of the late Mr. Thomas Tyndall, of Dursley, Gloucestershire, to Sarah Hannah, fourth daughter of Mr. David Mannerling, of Penton-street, Pentonville.

BARNETT—TOPPLE.—June 2, at Arthur-street Chapel, Walworth, by the Rev. S. Cowdy, N. J. F. Barnett, to Martha Jane, daughter of the late G. Topple, Esq., of the Bank of England.

CHAPMAN—BIRBECK.—June 2, at Belgrave Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. R. McAll, Mr. Robert Henry Chapman, to Miss Sarah Birbeck, all of Leeds.

ROBINSON—ENDERBY.—June 3, at the Caledonian-road Chapel, Islington, by the Rev. Ebenezer Davies, Mr. John Robinson, of Islington, to Alice, eldest daughter of Mr. William Enderby, of Spalding.

DEATHS.

NIGHTINGALE.—May 25, at 447, Old Kent-road, Ernest George, infant son of George and Fannie Nightingale, aged nine months and three weeks.

STEPHENSON.—May 27, at the residence of her son, 151, Ashford-row, Birmingham, Jane Stephenson, relict of Joshua Horwood Stephenson, late of Hull aged fifty-four years.

COOPER.—May 28, at Church House, Brantham, near East Bergholt, Suffolk, Mrs. Cooper, the beloved wife of George Cooper, Esq., in the sixty-seventh year of her age.

DANIELL.—May 28, Jane Elizabeth, the beloved daughter of the Rev. William Daniell, Independent minister, Great Ouseburn, near York. Aged eleven years.

HEATH.—May 28, at Cranley-terrace, Fulham road, S.W., Ernest Henry, only and beloved son of Mr. J. H. Heath, formerly of Exeter, aged four years and eleven months.

PATTISON.—May 29, at Islington Villa, Wem, Shropshire, after five days' illness, the Rev. Joseph Pattison, aged sixty-five, and for forty years the pastor of the Congregational church, Chapel-street, Wem, greatly beloved.

BROOKS.—May 31, at Lansdowne place, Holloway, George Brooks, Esq., after a long and painful illness, endured with the utmost resignation and patience, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

ROYCE.—June 3, aged seventeen years, Sarah Hannah, younger daughter of Mr. George Royce, De Montfort-street, Leicester. Friends will please accept this intimation.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Bilious affections and stomach complaint, induced by atmospheric heat or too liberal diet, if not early checked, are often attended with serious consequences. When anyone finds his ideas less clear than usual, his eyesight dimmed, and his head dizzy, while he is indisposed for all exertion, physical or mental, he may be quite sure that he is in immediate need of some cooling and purifying medicine. Let him send at once for a box of Holloway's Pills, after a few doses of which his head will be clear again, his spirits be elevated, and all his energies be restored. Printed directions for the guidance of patients in the use of this admirable medicine are affixed to every box.—[Adv't.]

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, June 4.

This morning's market was moderately supplied with English wheat, which found buyers on about the terms of this day week. Barley firm and fully as dear. Beans and peas without change. The return shows a good arrival of foreign oats, the majority being from Russian ports. The demand to-day has ruled steadily, but prices have shown considerable irregularity, in some instances being 6d. to 1s. per qr. lower than this day week.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr.		Per Qr.
WHEAT—	s. d.	PEAS—	s. d.
Essex and Kent,		Grey	34 to 36
red, old	48 to 51	Maple	35 38
Ditto new	38 45	White	37 40
White, old	50 56	Boilers	38 40
new	40 51	Foreign, white ..	34 40
Foreign red	43 48	RYE	26 28
white	48 58		
BARLEY—		OATS—	
English malting ..	1 35	English feed	20 25
Chevalier	36 38	potatoes	25 30
Distilling	27 31	Scotch feed	22 26
Foreign	20 27	potatoes	25 30
MALT—		Irish black	19 24
Pale	54 67	white	20 25
Chevalier	64 68	Foreign feed	21 25
Brown	48 53		
BEANS—		WHEAT—	
Ticks	36 40	Town made	43 46
Harrow	40 43	Country Marks ..	34 37
Small	42 47	Norfolk and Suffolk	32 34
Egyptian	36 40		

BREAD.—LONDON, Monday, June 4.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7½d. to 8d.; household ditto, 6d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, June 4.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 11,263 head. In the corresponding week in 1865 we received 15,911; in 1864, 8,708; in 1863, 5,775; in 1862, 5,323; in 1861, 7,819; in 1860, 10,231. There was a full average supply of foreign stock on offer in our market to-day. Sales progressed slowly, and prices had a drooping tendency. There were some remarkably good French beasts on sale. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were only moderate, and in midling condition when compared with several previous weeks.

A few grass-fed beasts were brought forward. All breeds met a slow inquiry, and in some instances the quotations were rather lower than on the previous night. A few very superior Scots and Crosses realised 5s. 4d., but the general top figure was 5s. 2d. per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge-hire we received 1,000 Scots, Shorthorns, and Crosses; from other parts of England, including 80 from Lincolnshire, 430 various breeds; from Scotland 40 Scots and Crosses; and from Ireland, 20 oxen and heifers. The show of sheep as to number was only moderate, but the quality of most breeds was good. The demand was heavy, and currencies gave way ½d. per 8lbs. The best Downs and half-breeds realised 5s. 10d. per 8lbs. Lambs were in fair average supply and sluggish request, at from 6s. 8d. to 8s. per 8lbs., being late rates. Calves met a dull inquiry on former terms, viz. from 5s. 4d. to 6s. 4d. per 8lbs. Pigs moved off heavily, but no quotable change took place in prices.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s. d.		s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts, 8	8 to 10	Prime Southdowns	5 8 to 5 10
Second quality ..	4 2 4 6	Lambs	6 8 8 0
Prime large oxen ..	4 8 4 10	Lge. coarse calves	5 4 5 10
Prime Scots, &c. ..	5 0 5 2	Prime small ..	6 0 6 4
Coarse inf. sheep, 3	8 4 2	Large hogs ..	4 0 4 4
Second quality ..	4 4 5 0	Neatam. porkers	4 6 5 0
Pr. coarse woolled	5 2 5 6		

Quarter-old store pigs, 30s. to 33s. each. Suckling Calves, 20s. to 23s.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, June 4.

The weather having become warm, the demand for each kind of meat is heavy, and prices have a drooping tendency. The supplies are reasonably good.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s. d.		s. d.
Inferior beef ..	3 4 to 3 8	Small pork ..	4 6 to 5 0
Middling ditto ..	3 10 4 0	Inf. mutton ..	3 6 4 4
Prime large do. ..	4 2 4 4	Middling ditto ..	3 8 4 4
Do. small do. ..	4 6 4 8	Prime ditto ..	4 6 5 8
Large pork ..	4 4 4 6	Veal	4 10 5 10

Lamb, 5s. 8d. to 7s. 0d.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET.—LONDON, Saturday, June 2.

In consequence of the temperate weather which we are at present experiencing, foreign imports, consisting of both fruit and vegetables, reach the market in very good condition. Cherries from the Continent continue to arrive in tolerable abundance. Foreign apricots also make their appearance. Grapes are plentiful, and the supply of strawberries has greatly improved. Dessert pears are now confined to Easter Beurre. Apples consist of Court Pendu Plat. Of pineapples there is a fair supply. Salads are more plentiful, as are also cucumbers. Supplies of English peas now come from Kent and Somersetshire. Flowers chiefly consist of deutzias, orchids, heaths, cinerarias, camellias, pelargoniums, azaleas, stocks, mignonette, and roses.

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 4.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 650 firkins butter and 3,368 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 18,986 casks, &c., butter, and 1,804 bales and 308 boxes of bacon. In the Irish butter market there is nothing new to notice, the demand very limited, foreign supplying nearly all the wants of the dealers: best Dutch, declined from 90s. to 92s. per cwt. The bacon market ruled quiet. The best Waterford shippers maintain their price; but secondary, as also Cork and Limerick meat, were offered 1s. to 2s. reduction.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, June 4.—The supplies of potatoes on sale are small. Good and fine qualities are in demand at extreme rates, otherwise the trade is quiet. About 4,000 boxes were imported last week. Regents, old, 60s. to 100s.; Flukes, do., 110s. to 140s.; Rocks, do., 50s. to 80s. per ton. Spanish, new, 8s. to 14s.; Jersey, new, 12s. to 24s. per cwt.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, June 4.—Our stock of good hops is now very small, and prices have improved, sales effected during the past week having shown an advance of 4s. to 5s. per cwt. The prospects of the growing crop have not at all improved of late. Accounts from the different grounds in the Weald of Kent, Sussex, Worcester, and the country district, report the plant as very severely hit by the fly, to the extent of twenty to thirty on a leaf; and already strong deposits of lice are observable. Mid and East Kent appear to be only partially affected. This strong attack of vermin, coupled with the weak character of the bine, present rather a threatening appearance, and promise badly for our future prospects. Belgian accounts are very similar to our own, fly to the extent of ten to twenty on a leaf being very general. In Bavaria the plant is free from vermin; but its growth has been much retarded by the cold nights, which have given the bine a very unhealthy appearance. New York advices to the 22nd ult. report the market as without change. The supply of foreign hops is large, and sales have been effected at old rates. Mid and East Kent, 100s., 140s., 108s.; Weald of Kent, 80s., 115s., 130s.; Farnham and Country, 95s., 120s., 155s.; Sussex, 70s., 105s., 115s.; Yearlings, 90s., 105s., 125s.; Bavarians, 120s., 147s., 160s.; Belgians 95s., 108s., 115s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week were 20 bales from Hamburg, 34 bales from Boulogne, 1,000 bales New York, and 14 bales from Antwerp.

SEED, Monday, June 4.—The seed trade continues inactive, without any improvement in demand for any description. There is no alteration in value.

WOOL, Monday, June 4.—We have again to report a heavy demand for all kinds of English wool; nevertheless, prices show rather more firmness than of late. For export scarcely any business is doing, but French buyers are operating freely at the public sales of colonial wool. The supply of home-grown quantities is on the increase.

OIL, Monday, June 4.—Lined oil is in fair demand at 30s. per cwt on the spot. For all other descriptions of oil the inquiry is limited, at about stationary prices. French spirits or turpentine are in moderate request at 45s. 6d. per cwt on the spot. American-refined petroleum is selling at 2s. 2½d. per gallon.

TALLOW.—LONDON, Monday, June 4.—The tallow trade is firmer, and prices are much higher than on Monday last. The quotation for F.Y.O. is 41s. per cwt. on the spot, town tallow commands 41s. 9d. net cash. Rough fat 2s. 2d. per 8lbs.

COALS, MONDAY, June 4.—Market heavy, at 6d. reduction on last day's rates. Huttons, 18s.; Hartlepool, 17s. 9d.; Haswell, 17s. 9d.; Kelloe, 16s. 8d.; Hutton Lyons, 15s. 9d.; Hugh Hall, 17s. 8d.; Hartley's, 17s. 8d. Fresh ships, 87; left, 11—total, 48. At sea, 20.

Advertisements.

DELICATE AND CLEAR COMPLEXIONS,
WITH A DELIGHTFUL AND LASTING FRAGRANCE.
BY USING

The Celebrated United Service Soap Tablets,
4d. and 6d. each. Manufactured by
J. C. & J. FIELD, UPPER MARSH, LAMBETH.
Order of your Chemist, Grocer, or Chandler.

NUNN'S MARSALA or BRONTE WINE,
25s. per dozen, 7½d. per six dozen, 12½d. per quarter cask. Rail paid to any station in England. This wine will be found of superior quality, is soft and old, and though full flavoured, entirely free from heat or the slightest approach to acidity.
THOS. NUNN and Sons, Wine, Spirit, and Liqueur Merchants,
2, Lamb's Conduit-street, W.C. Price lists on application.
Established 1801.

DR. DE JONGH'S

(Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium)

LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL,

Recommended by the most eminent Medical Men throughout the world as the safest, speediest, and most effectual remedy for

CONSUMPTION, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, COUGHS, RHEUMATISM, GENERAL DEBILITY, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, AND ALL SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

The invariable purity, uniform excellence, palatableness, speedy efficacy, and consequent economy, of this unrivalled preparation have obtained for it the unqualified confidence of the medical profession, and an unprecedented amount of public patronage.

Its immeasurable therapeutic superiority over every other variety is now universally acknowledged.

SELECT MEDICAL OPINIONS:—

DR. EDWARD SMITH, F.R.S.,

Physician to the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton, &c., &c.

"We think it a great advantage that there is one kind of Cod Liver Oil which is universally admitted to be genuine—the Light Brown Oil supplied by Dr. de JONGH. It has long been our practice when prescribing the Oil, to recommend this kind, since, amidst so much variety and uncertainty, we have confidence in its genuineness."—Extract from *Consumption: its Early and Remediable Stages*.

DR. LANKESTER, F.R.S.,

Coroner for Central Middlesex, &c., &c.

"I consider that the purity and genuineness of this Oil are secured in its preparation by the personal attention of so good a chemist and intelligent a physician as Dr. de JONGH. Hence, I deem the Cod Liver Oil sold under his guarantee to be preferable to any other kind as regards genuineness and medicinal efficacy."

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL is sold only in cauled IMPERIAL Half-Pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 6d.; Quarts, 9s.; labelled with his stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE CAN POSSIBLY BE GENUINE, by respectable Chemists and Druggists.

SOLE CONSIGNEES,

ANSAR, HARFORD, & CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

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